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THE BEGINNING OF HOSTILITIES.

ALTHOUGH the war which has so long threatened Europe is now on the point of breaking out—if we may not rather say that it already *has* broken out—people in general seem still as ignorant as to what it is all about as Southeys little Peterkin was in respect to the Battle of Blenheim. *Punch*, the habitual representative of popular feeling, whether wise or foolish, is of opinion that, if Austria and Prussia choose to begin fighting, it will be a very good joke to see the Emperor of the French profit by their encounter. We hope, nevertheless, that there is not much idiocy of this kind going about in England. The Germans, let them quarrel as they like among themselves, have, taking them all together, shown themselves better friends of ours than the French are ever likely to prove; and it is a stupid and treacherous wish to desire that the French should inflict any injury on Germany, inasmuch as it is impossible they can do so without in a proportionate degree injuring

England. The Rhine, as every schoolboy in politics knows, is the German possession that the French particularly covet. And everyone who knows a little more than a schoolboy is aware that it is a cardinal point in English policy not to let the French establish themselves on the Rhine; that the possession of the Rhine frontier means the possession of Belgium; the possession of Belgium the possession of Antwerp; and the possession of Antwerp the possession of a second Cherbourg—to guard against which we should have to create a second Portsmouth and to double our Channel Fleet. Therefore, those who think the sole object of English statesmen should be to keep down the national expenditure ought, in common with those who hold more elevated views, to dread the establishment of France on the Rhine.

Then, as regards the poor Germans themselves, what in the name of common-sense have the inhabitants of the Rhine provinces done to offend us, and why should they be subjected to the dominion of a foreign Power merely because such a result

would mortify the pride of the Prussian monarch? Such a result would cause all Germany to suffer, while leaving the Emperor of Austria—who, equally with the King of Prussia, disregarded our threats in the Schleswig-Holstein affair—absolutely unaffected by it.

No great war can take place in Western Europe without affecting England; and it is absurd to suppose that reasonable Englishmen can look on without concern while civil war is going on in Germany, and that they can find anything to laugh at in the idea that France, in the end, may profit by it.

Almost every war, like almost every private quarrel, seems ridiculous to outside observers who have not imagination enough to conceive the motives and to enter into the feelings of the contending parties. But we may be quite sure that a great war such as that which is now about to afflict Europe cannot proceed from a small cause. The vulgar view of the matter is that Austria and Prussia, having combined to rob a poor little State of two of its fairest provinces, after-



MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS MARY OF CAMBRIDGE AND PRINCE TECK, IN KEW CHURCH.

wards fell to loggerheads about the spoil, and that their conduct throughout the affair was simply that of common thieves bent on gain, and determined, whether by force or by fraud, to have it. But everyone who knows the history of the Schleswig-Holstein question (which, however, those who now talk most confidently about the causes of the war used to pronounce too dull and too unintelligible for study) must be aware that Austria did not desire, in the first instance, to separate the German duchies from the Danish monarchy, and that when she was at last dragged into a war waged with that very object, her wish was not to take the slightest portion of the liberated territory to herself, but to erect it into an independent State under a German ruler. To accuse Austria of having acted the part of a common robber towards Denmark is to make the wildest accusation possible. Rightly or wrongly, the German inhabitants of the duchies—that is to say, all the richest and most educated portion of the population—desired to be freed from the government of Denmark; and the whole German nation, divided on other points, united on this alone, insisted on freeing them. We do not believe, for our part, that they were oppressed with any definable sort of oppression. But they could not bear the idea of being governed by foreigners, and fancied, whether well governed or ill, that they were being humiliated by being included in the Danish monarchy at all. Now Austria was obliged either to abate her position in Germany or to stand forward, as Prussia on all occasions did, as the protector of the Germans groaning (or alleged to be groaning) beneath the Danish yoke. A glance at the map of Germany must suffice to convince anyone that Austria could never have intended to keep any portion of such a distant territory as that of Schleswig-Holstein for herself.

In fact, the Schleswig-Holstein question has been the plague of Austria for many years past. She could not go against Prussia when Prussia wished to take the part of the German duchies against their Danish government, or she would have set all Germany against her; while by going with Prussia she only aided that Power in the execution of designs which to Austria can never have been a secret, and which now, without ever having been avowed, have actually been accomplished. Prussia, no doubt, intended from the first to annex the Danish duchies; and she has by the skill of her diplomacy forced Austria to aid her in doing so. The Schleswig-Holstein question may now be looked upon as settled for many years—probably for many centuries—to come. Prussia has completely checkmated Austria in this region; and she had virtually beaten her and held the game in her own hands when, on the conclusion of the Danish war, she established herself in Schleswig and gave Austria Holstein, immediately on the Prussian frontier, to hold. Since that time the Austrian brigade in Holstein has been at the mercy of Prussia; and Prussia, after goading Austria into a departure from the letter of the treaty signed by the two Powers at Gastein, has, on this very ground, turned the brigade out. Austria had clearly a right to appeal, as she did, to the German Confederation, and, indeed, there was nothing else left for her to do. Prussia, however, was filled with indignation at her having dared to do so; and, in the spirit of a dishonest debtor who is shocked at the audacity of his creditor in venturing to take legal proceedings against him, exclaimed, "Ah! if you threaten me with the law, I shall do as I please;" and thereupon turned Austria out of Holstein.

Many persons say, and some few even complain, that the war is a long time beginning; but the war really began when the Austrian General in Holstein was called upon by the enemy to depart. With General Gablenz's departure terminates what may be called the prologue of the war. We are now waiting for the commencement of the terrible first act.

MARRIAGE OF H.R.H. PRINCESS MARY OF CAMBRIDGE.

FROM an early hour on Tuesday morning the residents of Kew showed an eager desire to do all possible honour to the Royal nuptials and to render the day one of marked festivity. Rarely, too, if ever before, has the usually quiet village witnessed such an influx of visitors as proceeded there that day. As early as nine o'clock trains conveying large numbers of passengers poured into Kew, via the South-Western and North-London lines; and from that hour up to twelve vehicles of every description continued to arrive laden with persons anxious to join in the day's festivities. The seats erected in the front of St. Ann's Church began to be occupied before ten o'clock, and each succeeding half hour added largely to those who had already taken up their position. Kew-green was lined with spectators; but many who had proceeded thither in the hope of seeing the bridal procession, it is to be feared, returned home disappointed, the holders of tickets acting as a screen to the view.

In the Kew Bridge-road, fronting the green, was erected a triumphal arch, through which the Royal and distinguished visitors had to pass on their way to Cambridge Cottage. It was composed of laurel leaves interspersed with rare flowers, and on each side was the inscription, "Bless the happy pair." Various flags also floated on the top, and in the evening there were a crown and the initials "M. F." illuminated on both sides. At a short distance through the arch there were two festoons, supported by blue poles, stretching from one side of the road to the other. The groundwork was of a white muslin texture, on which were arranged in flowers "M. A. F.", and round the poles were entwined some pretty floral ornaments, tastefully arranged. Both the festoons and the flowers were, it was understood, the work of several ladies resident in the village. The occupiers of the houses in Cambridge-terrace, immediately adjoining Cambridge Cottage, made an ample display. Besides various flags which were exhibited, some of the windows and railings in front were gaily dressed with flowers and evergreens, and many devices had been executed which were exceedingly graceful and appropriate to the occasion. At one house was displayed the motto, "May they be happy!" in white flowers; and two others, "Long life to the Prince and Princess," and "Happiness to the Princess," exhibited much taste. On the opposite side of Kew-green there was a profusion of flags and other decorations attached to the Rose and Crown and King's Arms Inns. The most humble of the villagers manifested in some outward form their interest on the occasion, and scarcely a man, woman, or child was seen without a white favour.

Throughout the morning salutes were fired from the grounds adjoining the Cumberland Arms, in the Richmond-road; and the Royal standard was flying in all directions. The school-room

belonging to the Queen's free school—the children of which took part in the ceremony at the church—was dressed with flowers, forming various devices. At one side of the room was the inscription, "Health and Happiness to the Princess Mary," while over the mantelpiece the initial "M." was worked in roses, and at the side were two hearts made of the same flowers. In this room the children dined, after the marriage ceremony was completed; and it should be mentioned that Princess Mary supplied blue bows for each of the boys to wear on the occasion.

The idea of the poor inhabitants dining together was abandoned by the committee, and on Tuesday morning the duty of presenting each with half a crown to make provision for themselves was assigned to the parish beadle. The desire of the people to get a glimpse of her Majesty and the other members of the Royal family as they proceeded from the South-Western station to Cambridge Cottage was intense, and as the Royal cortège passed between the crowds assembled along the whole line the cheering was of the most enthusiastic description. The Royal standard was hoisted on the church tower.

Owing to the short distance which intervenes between Cambridge Cottage and the church, there was no occasion for the employment of carriages, and the Royal party walked across the green to the church door. An awning had been thrown over the path which they traversed, and on one side of it a platform was erected for the accommodation of the parishioners of Kew, who for the day abandoned all right of entry into their parish church, and placed it entirely at the disposal of the Duchess of Cambridge. The most important alteration which had been made within the church was the removal of all the pews from the centre of the building. By this means there was obtained a broad middle aisle, up which the bride and her friends advanced to the altar. The whole of this had been covered with drugget, and over the part immediately in front of the communion-table there had been spread a rich silk carpet, which had been obtained for the occasion from one of the Royal palaces. Along this aisle seats were arranged for the most distinguished of the spectators, or those more immediately connected with the family of the illustrious bride; and the pews on each side were also devoted to the reception of those who had been invited to witness the ceremony.

The doors of the church were opened at half-past ten o'clock, when the company began to arrive. One of the first persons observed in the church was Lord Redesdale. His Lordship was shortly afterwards followed by the Earl of Derby, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Earl of Clarendon, Earl Granville, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Count Gleichen, the Duke d'Aumale, &c. Among the ladies who occupied the front seats were the Duchess of Marlborough, the Countess of Sefton, and the Duchess of Sutherland. At five minutes to twelve, the church being but moderately full, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Winchester, and the Rector of Kew arrived and walked up to the altar, all standing while a voluntary was played on the organ. In a few minutes the Princess of Wales, conducted by the Duke of Cambridge, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cambridge, the Crown Prince of Denmark and the Grand Duchess Dowager of Mecklenburg, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg, Princesses Helena and Louise, Prince Arthur, and others, arrived from the cottage. The Princess of Wales wore a white bonnet trimmed with blue, and a white Brussels lace shawl. The Princesses were dressed in white silk skirts, white jackets, and white bonnets trimmed with blue, and with a pink rose.

In the mean time her Majesty the Queen had arrived and gone up to the gallery, where she took her seat for a few seconds. Most of the company being then in their seats, her Majesty left the gallery, and, leaning on the arm of the Duke of Cambridge, entered the body of the church. Her Majesty was dressed in deep mourning, with a Mary Stuart cap under a black bonnet. The ladies in attendance on the Queen were also in mourning, though of not so dark a character as that of her Majesty.

The Queen took her seat on the right of the altar. Near her, on the same side of the altar, were the Princesses and the foreign Princes whose names we have given; and on the other side were the Princess of Wales, the Prince of Wales, and the peers mentioned above. His Royal Highness Prince Teck entered the building with a firm step, and, having kissed the Queen's hand, took his place at the altar. He wore a blue coat with a velvet collar and light trousers, and had a white rosebud in his button-hole. He remained standing for some three minutes, when suddenly the organ burst forth and the choir commenced singing "Kebel's marriage hymn, "How welcome was the call!" This was the signal for the appearance of the illustrious bride, who entered the church leaning on the arm of the Duke of Cambridge. Her Royal Highness looked pale and nervous. She was dressed in white satin, trimmed with lace and orange-blossoms. On her head were a coronet of diamonds and a wreath of orange-blossoms, from which fell at the back of the head a long veil of Brussels lace. The Princess wore also a diamond necklace and diamond earrings.

There were four bridesmaids—Lady Cornelia Churchill, Lady Georgiana Hamilton, Lady Agnes Yorke, and Lady Cecilia Molyneux. Colonel Clifton and Lady Arabella Bannerman were in attendance on the bride. The bridesmaids were dressed in white trimmed with blue, with blue sashes.

At the conclusion of the hymn the Archbishop of Canterbury commenced the service. The responses both of the bridegroom and the bride were very audibly made, the voice of Prince Teck being especially heard. The exhortation with which the marriage service closed was read by the Bishop of Winchester.

At the conclusion of the service the bride advanced with a quick step to the Queen, by whom she was affectionately kissed. The Princess also kissed the Princesses, and her brother, and the Prince of Wales. Prince Teck also kissed the Queen on the cheek; and, after other salutations, having bowed very sweetly to her bridesmaids, the newly-wedded Princess took the arm of her husband and returned down the centre of the church, acknowledging, with a faint blush and eyes full of kindness and emotion, the bows of the company. Prince Teck had a look of proud happiness as he left. The Queen, leaning on the arm of the Duke of Cambridge, had preceded the bridal pair. Princess Helena was escorted out by her brother, the Prince of Wales.

It had been arranged that Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" should be played as the company left the church; but this was abandoned at the special request of the Queen, and the "Ode to Joy," from Beethoven's 9th symphony, was substituted for it.

The illustrious company returned to Cambridge Cottage, where the marriage register was duly signed and attested; and after a most superb déjeuner the happy pair took their departure for Ashridge Park, near Berkhamsted, the seat of Earl Brownlow, the fair bride being nearly smothered with a cloud of white slippers thrown after the departing carriage for luck. Great festivities out of doors marked the popularity of her Royal Highness at Kew, and a grand display of fireworks in the evening brought the rejoicings to a brilliant close.

BISHOP COLENSO.—The Colenso difficulty has at length reached the courts of law, the excommunicated Bishop of Natal having brought an action in the Rolls Court to recover the arrears of his salary from the Colonial Bishops' Endowment Fund. When Dr. Colenso was deposed from his see by the Bishop of Capetown (acting as metropolitan) for heresy, the treasurer of the Endowment Fund—viz., the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Attorney-General, Vice-Chancellor Wood, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Archdeacon of London, and Mr. Hubbard, M.P.—thought it their duty to withhold the freethinking Prelate's salary.

THE SPANISH VERSION OF THE REPULSE FROM CALLAO.—The Spanish Government has communicated to the Chambers some details respecting the bombardment of Callao. The Minister of Foreign Affairs acknowledges that the fleet had suffered some damage, but has nobly accomplished its mission. "The bombardment," he said, "lasted as long as that of Valparaiso—that is to say, four hours. The Spanish seamen, not having the intention of seizing the place, naturally withdrew after having fulfilled their mission, in order not to expend their ammunition uselessly." The Minister added that, when the official reports were received, he would propose to the Chambers a vote of thanks to the sailors of the fleet.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The following important letter from the Emperor to M. Drouyn de Lhuys was read in the Corps Législatif by M. Rouher on Tuesday:

Palace of the Tuilleries, June 11.
Monsieur le Ministre.—At a moment when all the hopes of peace which we were induced to entertain from the meeting of the conference seem to have vanished, it is essential to explain by a circular to our diplomatic agents abroad the ideas which my Government proposed to submit to the Councils of Europe, and the conduct which it proposes to adopt in presence of the events in preparation. This communication will show our policy in its true light. If the conference had taken place, your language, as you know, was to have been explicit. You were to have declared in my name that I repudiated any idea of territorial aggrandisement so long as the European equilibrium should not be broken. In fact, we could only think of an extension of our frontiers in case of the map of Europe being modified for the exclusive benefit of a great Power, and also in the case of the frontier provinces asking by their voices freely expressed to be annexed to France. Excluding such circumstances, I think it more worthy of our country to prefer to acquisitions of territory the precious advantage of living on good terms with our neighbours, while respecting their independence and their nationality. Animated by these sentiments, and having only in view the maintenance of peace, I made an appeal to Russia and England to address words of conciliation to the parties interested. The accord established between the neutral Powers will yet remain in itself a pledge for the security of Europe. They proved their high impartiality in taking the resolution to confine the discussion in the conference to pending questions. In order to solve these questions I believe they must be frankly met, stripped of the diplomatic veil which covered them, and taking into serious consideration the legitimate desires of sovereigns and peoples. The present conflict has three causes—the geographical situation of Prussia being ill-defined; the wishes of Germany demanding a political reconstitution more conformable to its general necessities; the necessity for Italy to assure her national independence. The neutral Powers could not desire to mix themselves up in the internal affairs of other countries. Nevertheless, the Courts which participated in the constituent acts of the Germanic Confederation had the right to examine whether the changes called for were not of a nature to compromise the established order of Europe. As far as concerns ourselves, we should have desired for the secondary States of the Confederation a more intimate union—a more powerful organisation—a more important part to play; for Prussia, more homogeneity and strength in the north; for Austria, the maintenance of her great position in Germany. We should, moreover, have been glad to see Austria cede Venetia to Italy for an equitable compensation; for since, in concert with Prussia, and without regard for the treaty of 1852, she made war upon Denmark in the name of German nationality, it appeared to me just that she should recognise the same principle in Italy by completing the independence of the Peninsula. Such are the ideas which in the interest of the repose of Europe we should have endeavoured to promote. Now it is to be feared that the fate of arms can alone decide the questions. In the face of these eventualities what is the attitude of France? Should we manifest our displeasure because Germany finds the treatise of 1815 impotent to satisfy her national tendencies and maintain her tranquillity? In the war which is on the point of breaking out we have but two interests, the maintenance of the balance of power in Europe and the maintenance of the work to which we contributed in Italy. But is not the moral force of France sufficient for the protection of these two interests? Will she be obliged to draw the sword to make her voice heard? I think not. If, notwithstanding our efforts, the hopes of peace be not realised, we have at least the assurance, from the declaration made by the Courts engaged in the conflict, that whatever be the results of the war, none of the questions in which we are interested will be settled without the concurrence of France. Let us maintain, then, a watchful neutrality, and, strong in our disinterestedness, animated by the sincere desire to see the nations of Europe forget their quarrels and unite for the advancement of civilisation, liberty, and progress, let us wait, confident in our right and calm in our strength.

ITALY.

A Royal decree has been issued, calling out for military service the second categories of the classes of 1842, 1843, and 1845.

The war preparations in Italy continue, and one significant fact is that Garibaldi has left Caprera and proceeded to Como, the neighbourhood of which was the scene of his exploits in 1859. It is believed that the volunteers will gather around their favourite leader there. Garibaldi, accompanied by General Fabrizi, Dr. Albanese, and others, after inspecting the regiments of volunteers assembled at Como, will proceed to Piacenza, where he will meet the King of Italy. He will next proceed to Bari and Barletta, to review the volunteer troops in these towns. It is stated that he has addressed a letter to the King, begging him to give the command of a division of volunteers to General Pallavicini, who commanded the troops at Aspromonte, where Garibaldi was wounded in the foot. The Municipality of Florence have determined to give an ovation to the King on his leaving Florence to take the command of the army. They will meet him at the railway station, and present an address in the name of the city. All the towns on the route between Florence and Piacenza will follow the example of the capital.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has adopted, almost unanimously, the first article of a bill for the suppression of all religious bodies throughout Italy.

Austria has confined to the care of the Dutch Legation in Florence the interests of Austrian subjects in Italy, who until now had been under the protection of Prussia.

The following letter from Kossuth to the Hungarians has been published in the Italian journals:—

Turin, June 6, 1866.

A large number of my compatriots in various parts of Italy having requested counsel of me by letter upon what they ought to do under present circumstances, and as it is impossible for me to reply personally to all, I declare by the present that in my opinion all those of my compatriots employed in the military service, or in any other manner, will do well to remain for the present where they are, tranquilly awaiting the course of events. Those, on the contrary, who have no occupation, are fit for military service, and desire also to enter it, will do well to enrol themselves in the Hungarian Legion. They may all rest assured that if matters progress in such a manner as to offer a field of action to their patriotic zeal, they will receive due previous notice.

Intelligence from Venetia states that the Vienna Cabinet has dismissed the remonstrances of the Central Congregation of Venice against the forced loan, and has ordered the immediate execution of the law.

AUSTRIA.

Count Karolyi, the Austrian Minister at Berlin, having demanded his passports, left that city on Wednesday; and the Prussian Minister at Vienna, Baron Werther, received his passports on Tuesday night and quitted the Austrian capital next day. A declaration of war by Austria against Prussia immediately followed; at least, a rumour to that effect prevails in London at the time (Thursday evening) at which we close our columns.

Both France and Bavaria have declined to afford diplomatic protection to Prussian subjects during the cessation of friendly relations between Austria and Prussia. The Prussian Government, in sending his passports to Count Karolyi, expressed its high sense of the courtesy with which the Count had discharged his duties.

The Emperor has told the deputations from Pesth and Buda which have waited upon him that at the present serious moment he finds great comfort and support in the earnest devotion of his people.

PRUSSIA.

The Minister of the Interior having been deputed by the King to reply to the various addresses in favour of peace which have been forwarded to his Majesty, the Minister says that the King reluctantly perceives in these addresses an absence of that devotion which characterised the Breslau address, and repeats the assurances with which his Majesty replied to it as a fitting answer to all the addresses. The King, adds the Minister, expects, in view of growing dangers, the unconditional devotion of his people.

GERMANY.

Austria having demanded, by its representative in the Diet, that the federal army should be mobilised, the matter was discussed on Thursday; but the result has not yet reached us.

WIRTEMBERG.

A Royal decree has been published calling in for active service, within two days, all soldiers on furlough, that class of the Landwehr who had completed their military service, and all conscripts of the present year who have not yet been drilled.

SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Council have issued a decree calling out the first reserve of the Swiss army, for the defence of the passes of the Alps on the side of Italy.

ROUMANIA.

The Roumanian Government has addressed a circular to the foreign Powers complaining of the menacing military attitude assumed by the Porte, which it declares to be totally uncalled for, seeing that the intentions which actuate the Roumanian Government in its relations with Turkey are thoroughly loyal. The circular, in conclusion, announces that Roumania has been forced to arm in consequence of the warlike steps taken by the Porte.

The Government has also promulgated a decree ordering the organisation of a volunteer legion, to be maintained by the State and subjected during its term of service to the regulations in force for the army. By the formation of this legion the strength of the Rouman army will be raised to 150,000 men.

From Vienna comes the report that England is willing to recognise Prince Charles as Hospodar of Roumania, if he will take the oath of allegiance to the Sultan.

GREECE.

The King of Greece, unable to master the difficulties of his position, has claimed the assistance of the protecting Powers. On Monday he summoned to his presence the Ministers of the Powers, and, having explained the critical state of affairs in Greece, asked their advice. It is supposed the Ministers will refer to their respective Governments before giving an answer.

AMERICA.

We have advices from New York to the 2nd inst.

The most important item of intelligence refers to the Fenians, who, to the number of from 500 to 2000 (the accounts vary) crossed Niagara River on May 31, in despite, it is said, of the protests of Stephens, and captured Fort Erie, an undefended village, which is only a fort in name. They pulled up some of the track of the Grand Trunk Railway, seized supplies, and tendered Irish bonds in payment. They have cut off their retreat by burning the bridges in their rear. A fight has taken place between them and the Canadian volunteers. The affair was, however, a mere skirmish, and led to no decisive result. British regular troops, together with the Canadian levies, were advancing to attack the invaders. A large number of Fenians were said to be on their way to the seat of war, and there were rumours of other aggressive operations being attempted on the St. Lawrence. The Queen's troops will dispose of these gentles if they remain in Canada long enough; and, as General Grant was at Buffalo at the head of a large force, they were literally between two fires.

The Senate had unanimously struck out the section of the constitutional amendment, proposed by the reconstruction committee, disfranchising rebels until 1870. The Senate had, however, adopted an amendment to the Reconstruction Bill disqualifying for Federal State office all rebels who formerly held national, State, or judicial office.

The House of Representatives had passed, by 96 to 32 votes, the bill to amend and continue in force the Freedmen's Bureau. The House had also passed two bills reducing the rates for the collection of the internal revenue.

General Wingfield Scott died on the 29th of May.

The health of Mr. Jefferson Davis is greatly improved since he has been allowed his freedom in Fortress Monroe. In consequence of a report that the trial of Mr. Davis would be postponed until November, his counsel had declared their determination, in case of such postponement, to insist on his release upon bail, which they have agreed to furnish to the extent of 10,000,000 dols.

AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.

The following despatch has been sent by Count Bismarck to the Prussian representatives abroad:—

I have already communicated to your Excellency at a former period the despatch I addressed upon the 7th of last month to the King's Ambassador at Vienna in reference to Count Mensdorff's note of April 26, upon the question of the Elbe duchies. I purposely selected for that communication the form of a confidential statement, not intended to be conveyed in copy, because experience had taught me that a real understanding is not promoted by the exchange of documents, which are wont immediately to obtain publicity, and because it was the first wish of the King's Government still to offer or leave open to the Vienna Cabinet the possibility of an approach. We had also, at first, cause to assume that this step of ours would be appreciated at Vienna; and, judging from his remarks to Baron von Werther, Count Mensdorff seemed to have perceived in it such a possibility. Indeed, the tenor of our communication, wherever it transpired, was looked upon as a symptom of cordial feeling, increasing hopes in the preservation of peace.

We have waited in vain for a reply, or even for a mere expression of the Emperor's Ambassador upon the subject.

We are forced, on the contrary, to consider the declaration delivered by the Austrian Government at the Federal Diet at Frankfort-on-the-Main, on June 1, as the answer to our conciliatory overtures. In that declaration, after a retrospective statement at variance with facts and offensive to Prussia, Austria hands over to the Diet the decision upon the Schleswig-Holstein question, and at the same time gives notice of an act of sovereignty in Holstein—viz., the convocation of the Estates, which she is not entitled to undertake single-handed from the moment when she released herself from the Gastein Treaty by reference to the Diet, and thereby substituted the old relation of the co-possession for the recent geographical division.

We have already protested at Vienna against this unjustifiable and one-sided act, as against the equally unjustifiable disposal of our rights by handing them over to the Diet, and reserve to us to take further steps.

But, first, I cannot refrain from declaring that in this proceeding of the Austrian Government we are unable to perceive anything but the intention of a direct provocation and the desire forcibly to bring about a breach and war.

All our information agrees that the determination to make war upon Prussia is firmly settled at Vienna.

I may confidently acquaint your Excellency, by his Majesty's desire, that at the time we addressed the conciliatory communication above mentioned to Vienna, the King, actuated by the duty of preserving peace as long as possible, readily listened to a proposal for direct understanding made from an impartial quarter at Vienna, and first communicated to his Majesty, without the participation of the Ministry, in order to ascertain whether his Majesty the Emperor of Austria was still actuated by the wish of maintaining peace. The proposal was to treat the Schleswig-Holstein and the federal reform questions in common, and by this connection to facilitate the solution of both. The negotiations, supported by the most conciliatory desires on the part of the mediators, have, as his Majesty informs me, only demonstrated that a corresponding feeling no longer exists at Vienna. They have shown, notwithstanding the Emperor's theoretical love of peace, the craving for war which dominates every other consideration throughout his entire Council, even among those who to our knowledge formerly voted against the war, and even against the reparations and armaments, and that this craving has now also gained decisive influence over the Emperor himself. Not only was there manifested an entire absence of all and every readiness to enter even into confidential negotiations, and to discuss the possibilities of an agreement, but expressions of influential Austrian statesmen and councillors of the Emperor have been reported to the King from an authentic source which leaves no doubt that the Imperial Ministers desire war at any price, partly in the hope of successes in the field, partly to tide over domestic difficulties—nay, even with the expressed intention of assisting the Austrian finances by Prussian contributions or by an "honourable bankruptcy."

The acts of the Austrian Government coincide only too accurately with this intention.

I have mentioned above that we are compelled to recognise a direct provocation in the declaration delivered at the Diet. It has only one meaning if the Vienna Cabinet intends to follow it up immediately with the expressed breach, for it cannot be expected that we should tamely submit to this attack upon our rights. In another question, the forced loan ordered in Venetia, which impresses a sting of additional bitterness upon circumstances, shows that Austria will only make use of the extremest means towards Italy also. Corresponding with this are the reserves with which, according to the information received here, she accompanied her answer to the invitation to the conference, and which, as we hear, are understood by all the three Powers as equivalent to refusal.

After the form of the invitation had, by negotiation between the inviting Powers, been expressly so drawn up that Austria should be able to accept it without committing herself to anything in advance, and without being compelled to make reserves, it is precisely the Vienna Cabinet that renders all these labours futile.

Behind this we can only see the decided intention upon the part of Austria of forcing war with Prussia, and of, at most, making use of negotiations as to the congress to gain time by procrastination for her own not entirely completed arrangements, but especially for those of her allies. The fact of

war is a settled determination at Vienna; the only further point is to choose the favourable moment to begin.

This conviction is forced upon us with imperative necessity by the most recent facts, and we consider that only an intentionally prejudiced view can come to an opposite conclusion. Facts now speak too loudly for gossip and empty rumours as to the warlike longings of Prussia, not to dwindle into nothingness in comparison. Perhaps we shall at last be believed when we solemnly protest against any notion of wishing to make good our claims to the duchies by force and with disregard to the rights of the co-possessor. Now, too, probably it will not be difficult to understand the real motives of the armaments by which Austria has given rise to the present crisis, and whose removal by means of the congress she has further taken care to render impossible by the attitude she has assumed.

We may appeal with a calm conscience to the judgment of all impartial statesmen as to which party has displayed conciliation and love of peace up to the last moment.

Count Mensdorff, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has addressed a declaration to Count Karolyi, dated the 9th, replying to the statements in the above Prussian despatch. The Austrian Minister says:—

Count Bismarck has considered himself allowed to attack the truth of the words we have spoken in the Federal Diet. This attempt will not succeed, for the proofs of what we have said are but too well remembered by all. They weigh heavily against the Cabinet of Berlin; and not only in Austria, but also in non-Prussian Germany, the voice of the public conscience is universally in unison with our own. Even in Prussia there are many truthful, independent minds to whose judgment we could appeal with full confidence.

Count Mensdorff goes on to mention the recent proceedings of Prussia in Holstein, and enters a solemn protest against the statements with which it has been attempted to justify these proceedings. He declines, on the part of the Austrian Government, all and every responsibility for the serious consequences of the Prussian decision, by which the conflict is henceforth consigned to the domain of facts, and proceeds to prove that since its despatch of Jan. 26, 1866, the Prussian Government has both by word and deed, and without lawfulness, taken up a position in the duchies which has rendered utterly precarious the condition of possession settled by the Gastein Convention. Count Mensdorff continues:—

Austria respected, nevertheless, the settlement of the possession of the duchies. She did not give notice of withdrawal from the Gastein Convention, and would have allowed the provisiorum established by that convention to remain undisturbed until the Diet should have given its decision. Prussia, by marching troops into Holstein, completes, *de facto*, on her side, the violation of the Gastein Convention, and our protest is grounded on the fact of Prussia having proceeded to acts of self-redress, and of her having violated, by the occupation of Holstein, not only her treaty relations with Austria, but also art. 11 of the German Federal Pact. She has, moreover, thereby brought about the state of things contemplated by art. 19 of the final Act of Vienna.

In conclusion, Count Mensdorff reserves to the Imperial Government the right of taking such steps and resolutions as may be found necessary, since nothing remains for Austria but to take steps for defending her honour and guarding her rights from being treated with contempt.

The following proclamation has been issued by General Manteuffel:—

Gottorp, June 7.
Inhabitants of the Duchy of Schleswig.—Since my assumption of office here I have always acted towards you with frankness. Never have I had any reason to repent of that course, and I now address myself to you again with the same frankness. The rights of sovereignty which his Majesty my King and master has over the duchy of Holstein has been endangered by proceedings with which you are all acquainted. The most sacred interests of your country are placed in jeopardy, for never has the Estates of either of the duchies been called together except in view of an assembly of the general representation of an undivided Schleswig-Holstein. I am charged by his Majesty the King with the protection of those menaced rights, and for that reason I have to-day ordered the entry of troops into Holstein, as I have announced to the Imperial Governor of the Duchy of Holstein that this military measure has only a purely defensive character.

Inhabitants of the Duchy of Schleswig.—I have learned to know and to esteem the spirit of order and legality with which you are animated, and I now give you a proof of this esteem. At this moment Schleswig is being almost denuded of troops. You will prove that the attitude which you have hitherto maintained has not been induced by fear, but by the loyalty of your character. But you, too, in your turn, have learnt to know me, and you know that I am faithfully and heartily devoted to the interests of this country. You will with confidence accept my word. No doubt of the power or the will of Prussia could find root in your minds. Let us have faith in each other.

The entry of the Prussians into Rendsburg is described as a very quiet affair. The troops were peacefully met by the Austrians, who afterwards, by order of General Gablenz, evacuated the place, and, in return for this civil proceeding, the Prussians gave an ovation to the departing Austrian staff and members of the Holstein Government. The Prussian General entered Litzehoe on Monday, arrested Herr Lesser, the Government Commissioner, and dispersed the Holstein Estates. General von Manteuffel then advanced on Altona, which town the Austrians left, evacuating the duchy and crossing the Elbe into Hanover. General von Gablenz, the Austrian Commander, in a proclamation declares that he adopts this course under protest and in deference to superior force.

General von Manteuffel has ordered that every public functionary and official in Holstein shall take the following solemn engagement:—

The King of Prussia having taken upon himself the chief governing power in the duchy of Holstein, through the Governor-General von Manteuffel, I hereby solemnly engage, in place of an oath, to submit unconditionally to the orders of the King of Prussia and of all authorities acting on his behalf, and also to fulfil loyally and faithfully all duties that may be intrusted to me.

COUNT KIELMANSEGGE, for many years Hanoverian Minister in London, died, a few days ago, at his country seat in Holland.

FIELD MARSHAL BENEDEK has, says the *Owl*, announced that he will accept Mr. W. H. Russell, the historian of the Crimean War, as the only correspondent of the press at his head-quarters.

THE PRUSSIAN ARMY.—The Prussian army in the field is cantoned on the frontier of Saxony and in Prussian Silesia. There are, however, two important detachments, or rather auxiliary corps, in other positions. One of these is a corps of 13,000 men, concentrated at Minden, on the southern frontier of Hanover. This body of troops is intended to watch the proceedings of Hanover, who has already given symptoms of an inclination to arm, but with the intention of placing his armaments at the disposal of Prussia. The second is the Prussian contingent in the Elbe duchies. Until a few days ago this contingent consisted of 13,000 men, but when it was judged necessary that Prussia should enter Holstein 6000 men were conveyed from Berlin in one night to Lauenburg. These entered Holstein on the south, while General Manteuffel, with a portion of his original contingent, marched into the duchy on the north. At the present moment the Prussian army consists of these two detachments above mentioned; the army in the field, which comprises eight corps d'armée of the line and the corps of the guard, which forms a corps d'armée of itself; of the reserve troops for these corps d'armée, and of the garrison troops for service in the fortresses. Besides these, a new corps d'armée is being raised, which will make a ninth corps d'armée of the line. These, with the corps of the guard, will form the corps d'armée in the field. Hospitals have been established in about twenty of the principal towns of the kingdom, even in towns so far north as some of those in the province of Pomerania.

"PLAY OUT THE PLAY."—We read in a Florence letter, "A drama was being acted at the Capranica Theatre, Rome, on the eve of a fast day, which I supposed to begin at midnight. But the piece was long, and only three acts had been played when the manager came forward and announced, in the name of the cardinal supervisor of theatres, that the public must withdraw, as the hour of mortification had arrived. The whole house was immediately in a tumult, and cries of 'The fourth act,' 'We do not want to fast,' 'We are in a theatre, and not in a monastery,' &c., were heard on all sides. The police officers at last yielded to the clamour, and the piece was played to the end without interruption. This popular success will have its significance in the eyes of those who know how tenacious of their privileges are the Roman authorities."

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AT VILLETTÉ.

Do any of our readers remember the name of M. Aubin, the maker of fireworks, pâtes d'artifice, to the Emperor and the city of Paris? Most visitors to the capital of France at festival times have seen and admired his stupendous illuminations, his gorgeous wheels and coloured lights, fiery dragons, and tourbillons; and now his factory has been blown to ruins by an awful explosion, which has been the great topic of discourse for several days among the Parisian people.

All the journals have recorded the fearful details of this catastrophe, and it is supposed that the accident arose from the spontaneous combustion of the fulminating powder employed in the factory, or by the electric influence which was so perceptible in the atmosphere on the 29th of last month, when the accident occurred.

The quarter of Villette, usually so quiet at five o'clock in the day, was suddenly roused by a detonation more alarming than the shock of an earthquake, and which was heard as far as Meudon. The entire factory was shattered to ruins, and fifty workmen were the victims of the dreadful accident. After untiring exertions on the part of the firemen, assisted by the people of the quarter, the fire was abated; but the bodies of twenty-seven unfortunate were not brought out until the 1st inst., and some of these were so fearfully burned as to be unrecognisable. Twelve wounded men, of whom five died, were taken to the hospital, and the whole place was plunged into mourning, although acts of heroic devotion were exhibited by many of the people, and particularly by the ministers of religion and the sisters of mercy, who went to and fro, amidst the dead and dying, ministering to every want as far as their abilities would allow them to do.

The corpses of the victims were carried to the cemetery, where they lay under a tent, some of them burnt in the very attitude of prayer or of the last agony. The charred and blackened clothes hanging on the biers and on the branches of the willows were terrible and touching reminders of the awful occasion; and at intervals might be heard the sudden cry or wail of some one who had succeeded in recognising a friend or a relative. The funeral of the victims took place in the cemetery of the Church of Villette, with all the solemnity of a public occasion; and the authorities appeared there in full official uniform.

Subscriptions have been commenced for the benefit of the wives and families of the unfortunate workmen.

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY STATION AT PIMLICO.

OUR Engraving shows the state of the works for the new station at Victoria of the metropolitan district system of the London, Chatham, and Dover Company. The traffic at present is carried on by means of the old Victoria station; but as this was found to be too limited in capacity, the new station was determined on; and the works are being rapidly pushed on towards completion. In the background of the picture are the existing station and the Grosvenor Railway, by means of the metropolitan district system of the London, Chatham, and Dover line and the Metropolitan (underground) Railway, a nearly complete circuit of London, from Hammersmith to Pimlico, may be made, with branches off to nearly the whole of the southern suburban region.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

THE parsons and supporters of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who have hitherto carried on the business of the association in Earl-street, Blackfriars, are about to erect a new central building adjacent to that which they formerly occupied. The foundation-stone of the new structure was laid on Monday, and the presence of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales added more than usual éclat and ceremony to the proceedings. To the last moment it was expected that the Princess of Wales would grace the meeting with her presence, but from some unavoidable cause she was prevented attending. Visitors were invited to be present by half-past eleven; and at a quarter past twelve the band of the Honourable Artillery Company struck up the National Anthem. Shortly afterwards his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, attended by Lord Shaftesbury, president of the society; the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and several vice-presidents of the institution, entered the temporary structure raised for the occasion. No less than 3000 persons had then assembled to welcome the Prince and to assist at the ceremony. Among those who took a more or less prominent part in the proceedings of the day were Lord Shaftesbury, the Lord Mayor and the two Sheriffs, the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Winchester, the Bishop of Carlisle, Dean Stanley, General Bulow (Danish Minister), Lord Charles Russell, the Hon. A. Kinnaird, Mr. Horsfall, M.P., &c. After the Prince had taken his seat in the chair of state, placed on the platform behind the foundation-stone, the Rev. C. Jackson gave out the hymn beginning with the line, "With one consent let all the earth," which was sung by the assemblage to the tune of the "Old Hundredth." The Rev. T. Binney next read from the Scriptures an appropriate selection of passages, after which the Rev. S. B. Bergue, the secretary to the society, read a rather lengthy statement of its objects, its operations, and its progress. Lord Shaftesbury then requested the Prince to lay the foundation-stone, which bore the following inscription:—"British and Foreign Bible Society, founded A.D. 1804. This stone was laid June 11, 1866, by His Royal Highness Albert Edward Prince of Wales. Shaftesbury, President. C. Jackson, S. B. Bergue, Secretaries. E.J. I'Anson, Architect. Rider and Sons, Builders. 'Thy word is truth.'—John xvii. 17."

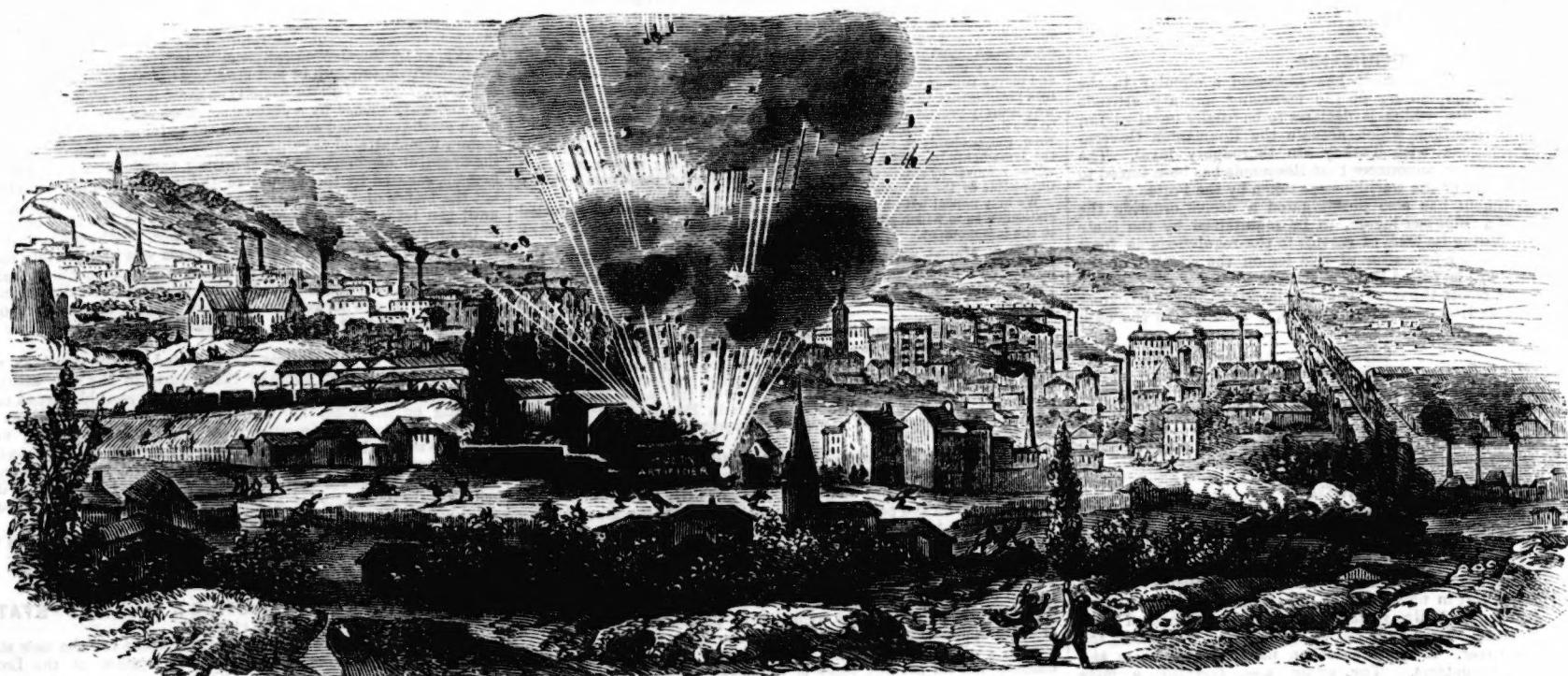
A plan and elevation of the proposed new building were then exhibited to his Royal Highness by Mr. I'Anson, the architect; after which the Rev. Charles Jackson presented a bottle containing a copy of the last annual report of the society, a copy on parchment of the inscription on the stone, a copy of the *Times* newspaper, and several of the current coins of the realm, dated 1866. Mr. John Bockett, the treasurer of the society, now presented a silver trowel to the Prince; and his Royal Highness, having gone through the form of laying the mortar for the reception of the foundation-stone, and the stone itself having been lowered to its place, declared it well and duly fixed, amid the cheers of the assemblage among whom he stood.

The Prince then proceeded to address the meeting in the following words:—

"My Lord Archbishop, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—I have to thank you for the very interesting address in which you so ably set forth the objects of this noble institution. It is now sixty-three years since Mr. Wilberforce, the father of the eminent Prelate who now occupies so prominent a place in the Church of England, met, with a few friends, by candle-light, in a small room in a dingy counting-house, and resolved upon the establishment of the Bible Society. Contrast with this obscure beginning the scene of this day, which, not only in England, and in our colonies, but in the United States of America and in every nation in Europe, will awaken the keenest interest. Such a reward of perseverance is always a gratifying spectacle; much more so when the work which it commemorates is one in which all Christians can take part, and when the object is that of enabling every man in his own tongue to read the wonderful works of God. I have an hereditary claim to be here on this occasion. My grandfather, the Duke of Kent, as you have reminded me, warmly advocated the claims of this society; and it is gratifying to me to reflect that the two modern versions of the Scriptures more widely circulated than any others—the German and English—were both in their origin connected with my family. The translation of Martin Luther was executed under the protection of the Elector of Saxony, the collateral ancestor of my lamented father; while that of William Tyndale, the foundation of the present authorised English version, was introduced with the sanction of the Royal predecessor of my mother, the Queen, who first desired that the Bible 'should have free course through all Christendom, but especially in its own realm.' It is my hope and trust that, under the Divine guidance, the wider diffusion and a deeper study of the Scriptures will, in this as in every age, be at once the surest guarantee of the progress and liberty of mankind and the means of multiplying in the purest form the consolations of our holy religion."

His Royal Highness was frequently applauded during the delivery of this address, and at the close of it was greeted with the most hearty cheering.

His Grace the Archbishop of York then offered up prayer on behalf of the society and for a blessing on the event of the day, and the Bishop of Winchester returned thanks to the Prince for



EXPLOSION AT THE FIREWORK FACTORY OF M. AUBIN, AT VILLETTÉ, PARIS.

honouring the ceremony with his presence. The whole assembly now united their voices in chanting the National Anthem, and the proceedings closed with the benediction by the Archbishop of York.

His Royal Highness was afterwards entertained at luncheon at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

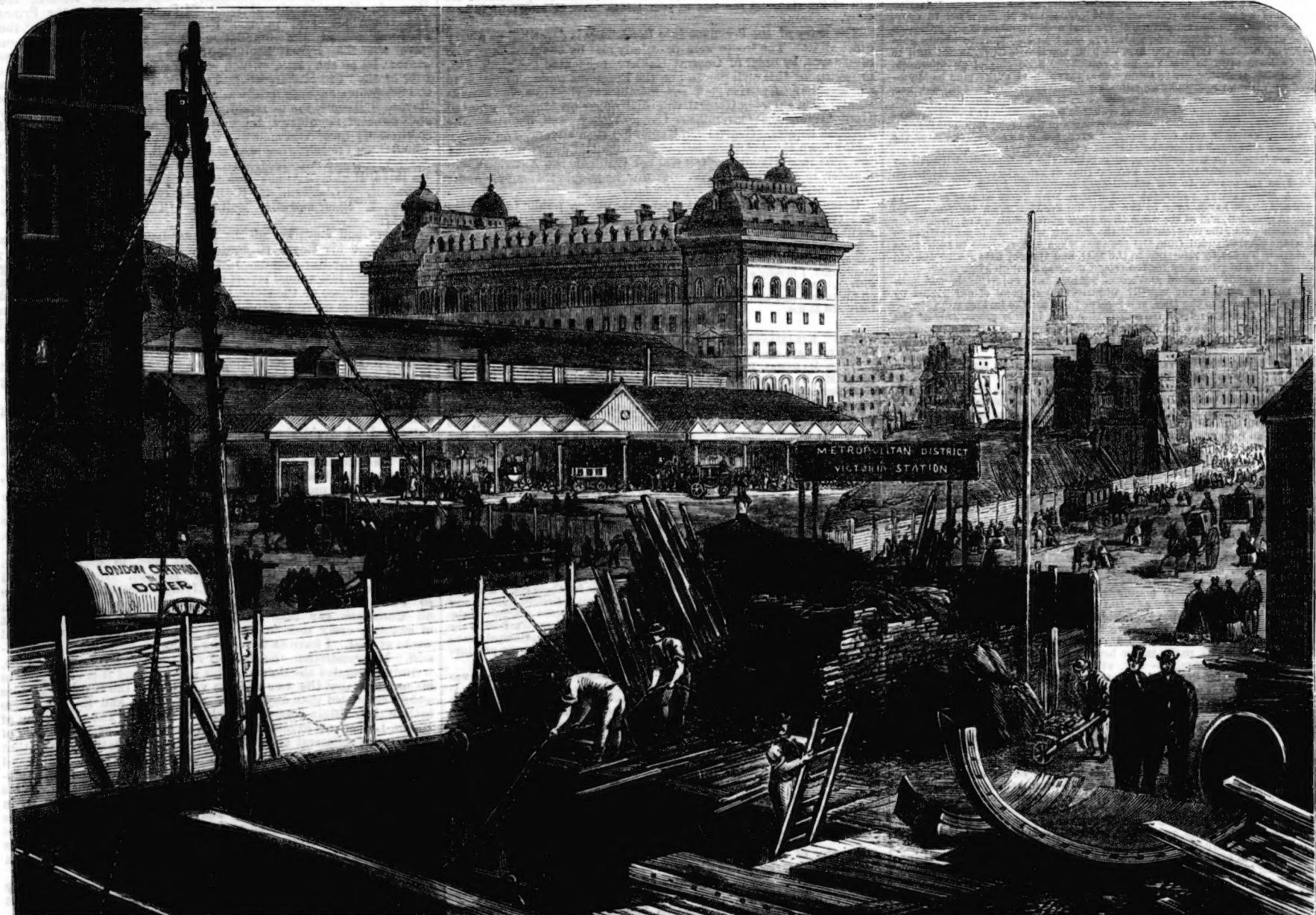
THE midsummer exhibition of this society took place on the 6th inst., in the City Hall and adjacent apartments. A distinguished company honoured the show with their presence, and crowds of visitors flocked into the hall till the hour of closing. The band of the 21st Regiment, led by Herr von Heddeghem, imparted animation to the silent beauties of Flora. The City Hall was a sort of fairyland on the occasion. Tropical palms, tree-ferns, and flowering plants of rich and varied hues were gracefully grouped, each exhibitor vieing with his neighbour in the excellence of his productions and in tastefulness of arrangement. To descend to particulars, the collections of plants demand our first attention, as they formed the leading feature of the show. The first prize of £20 was awarded to Mr. L. Mitchell, Hamilton Palace gardens; the second to Mr. William Dickson, gardener to Thomas Coats, Esq., Ferguslie; and the third to Mr. James Murray, gardener to David Tod, Esq., Ironbank, Partick. As compared with the prize-money, these collections of plants are as Hercules to a pygmy; and therefore the more honour to those who, by exhibiting plants, endeavour to improve the public taste. This much in regard to miscellaneous collections of

plants. But in another department—that of orchids—W. C. Paterson, Esq., of Ashville, stood first and best; indeed, it was remarked by several who had been at the International Exhibition that Mr. Paterson's orchids would have cut no mean figure there. In a word, it may be said of all these collections that it was only after the nicest scrutiny that one could be pronounced superior to another. We might give the names of the most prominent plants, but our readers would scarcely thank us for a mass of technical terms. It may be remarked, however, that the auctochiles exhibited by Thos. Coats, Esq., were the finest and rarest things exhibited, and that very few people are acquainted with the excellency beauty of their leaves. Apart from the grand specimens of exotics from Hamilton Palace, Ferguslie, and Ironbank, the orchids from Ashville formed a feature of the show which was surpassed by none, and which, to the initiated, had an interest far beyond the subjects that attracted the eye of the general public. Mr. P. M'Kenzie, Gordon-street, exhibited a fine collection of heaths, azaleas, geraniums, &c.; and Messrs. Austin and M'Aulain had two tables filled with a beautiful collection of plants, including a large display of the beautifully-variegated geranium Mrs. Pollock, azaleas, heaths, and other choice subjects, very tastefully arranged. Messrs. Smith and Simons exhibited several Wardian cases for growing plants in drawing-rooms, one of which was the finest in taste, the most elegant in design, and the best adapted for growing plants indoors that we have yet seen. Along with these were a number of novel flower-pot covers, formed of elastic wicker-work, by which the pots are concealed—a decided boon to those who cultivate plants for house decoration. Mr. John Colquhoun exhibited a fine collection of pine-apples, plums, and strawberries,

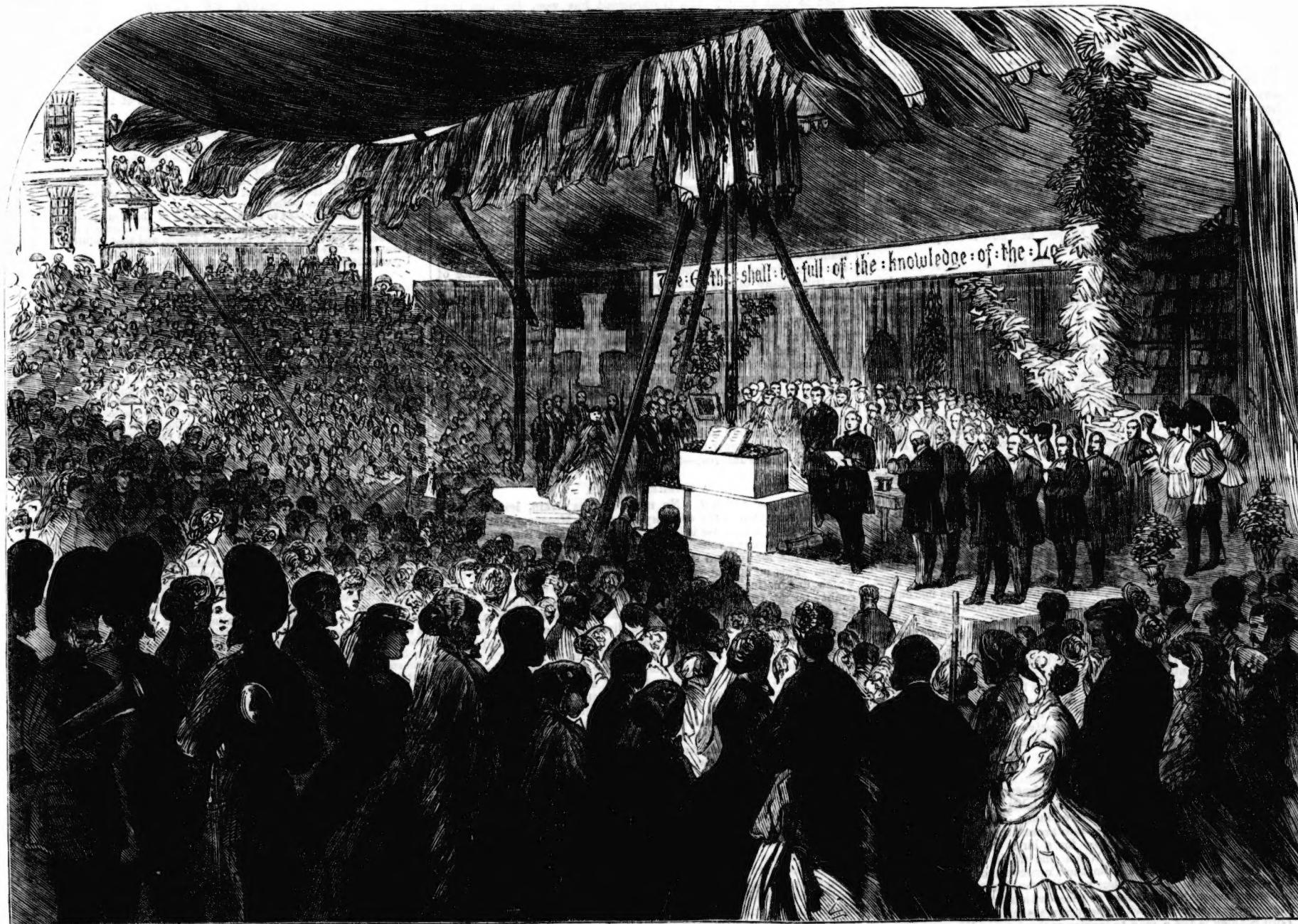
which elicited many encomiums, alike for the excellence of the fruits as for their fragrance. Of house plants there was a large display, in most cases the specimens being well grown and in good bloom—those from Beechwood and Merrylee House, Cathcart, taking the premier prizes. Messrs. Drehorn and Aitkin, Kilmarnock, sent one of the finest and most select collections of herbaceous and bedding plants ever seen at any Glasgow show. From the Botanic Garden there was a collection of plants doing great credit to that establishment and to Mr. Clark, the curator. There was also a nice lot of plants from Mr. Martin, Greenlaw Nursery, Paisley, in the saloon.

The amateurs' productions were better than ever seen before, both as regards plants and vegetables. Mr. Dobbie, of Renfrew, showed his Russian parsley in great perfection. Messrs. Young, Bookless, Stirling, and other amateurs, distinguished themselves greatly. A magnificent collection of rhododendron blooms was shown by Mr. Batter, Greenock, including all the best hybrids. The show of pansies was far above the average, both in quality and quantity—the blooms being free from weather damage. Tulips were middling only, vegetables on the whole were adequately represented, and fruits were shown in fine condition. We should not omit to mention the very superior specimens of fireclay articles exhibited by the Garnkirk Company, and also by Mr. Hudspeth. Space does not permit us to dwell at greater length on what was altogether a most excellent show, and which afforded great gratification to all beholders.

The dinner, which took place in the afternoon, was presided over by Mr. Goodwin, one of the vice-presidents of the society, assisted by Mr. Graham, of Garscube, vice-chairman.



WORKS AT THE PIMLICO STATION OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT SYSTEM OF THE LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY.



THE PRINCE OF WALES LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE NEW OFFICE OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.



FLOWER SHOW IN THE CITY HALL, GLASGOW.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 283.

WHAT'S UP?

On Thursday night, last week, having scanned the notice-paper, as our wont is, we went down to the House expecting a long debate upon Mr. Walpole's amendment to the fourth clause of the Reform Bill, to raise the county rental qualification from £14 to £20, and, at about midnight, a large division. But, when we got to the House we soon found that something more than had been expected was about to happen—that there was "something up," as the phrase is here—for the House was filling rapidly; members were clustering round the table to write their names on cards to be affixed to their seats; and, even at that early hour, the whips of both sides were in the lobby actively plying their thongs. Catching a member by the arm, we said, "What's going to happen, to cause this excitement?" "I don't know exactly," he replied, "but there's something up;" and away he rushed into the House; and this was all that we could get from him. We were not, however, left long in the dark, but soon learned what was going to happen; and now, without further preface, we will show what did happen, and how it happened, in the best way that we can.

A RUSE DE GUERRE.

The business of the evening on the paper was that which we have stated above; but at a meeting of Conservatives, held at the Marquis of Salisbury's that morning, a resolution had been come to that before this business a *ruse de guerre* should be tried; and this was the character of the ruse as it was ultimately adopted: After Mr. Gladstone had moved the adoption of the fourth clause, instead of Mr. Walpole, Lord Stanley was to rise and move this amendment, "That clause 4 shall be postponed until the House shall have considered the redistribution of seats clause." This is an imitation, as our readers will see, of the policy of Lord Lyndhurst in 1832, and the motive was the same. Lord Lyndhurst meant to defeat Earl Grey's bill; and the Conservatives assembled on Thursday intended by their move to defeat the Reform Bill now before the House. This ruse was, of course, to be kept, as far as possible, secret; and, if it could have been kept secret, or even kept from the ears of the Liberal whips, it might have succeeded. But catch a weasel asleep! A party whip may be said, metaphorically, to have a Dionysius's ear, and very little can happen in the political world but some inkling of it reaches his cave; and, though Mr. Brand might not have learned the exact nature of the move to be made, he would know that this meeting had been held; know who was there; and, if he could not learn what was said and done, he would naturally suspect mischief, and be on the alert. However this may have been, the Government whip was not caught napping. The time which he had at his command after he had learned that he might expect some insidious attack was short; his forces were scattered far and wide; but so assiduously did he ply his whip that by six o'clock in the evening he had got together all his available men; and at seven, though the Conservatives, of course, had all the advantage of knowing what was coming on long before the Liberals could have got a hint of the business, the Government beat their opponents in a division by a majority of twenty-seven in a House of 551. And thus ended this discreditable manoeuvre, for that it was discreditable even Conservatives, now the excitement is over, will scarcely deny; and yet the motion was made by a Stanley and seconded by an Egerton!

THE LEADER.

The debate upon Lord Stanley's amendment was short but sharp. Both sides had whipped up all their available men, and both sides had agreed to press a division before dinner. The debate therefore was necessarily short, and it was also necessarily sharp. This move of the Conservatives was a throw for a large stake, and of course the gamblers were excited. When the noble Lord rose he was received with loud cheers from the Conservative benches. He is always received with cheers, but very different were the cheers which now rang through the House to those which usually welcome him. Commonly, the greeting which he receives is but coldly courteous, for Lord Stanley is not a man to inspire enthusiasm. His manners are cold and distant, and his speeches are by no means exciting. Moreover, there is a suspicion amongst the Conservatives that he is not really one of them, and he not unfrequently does utter sentiments which jar strangely on Conservative ears. Good Mr. Spooner, when anyone mentioned Lord Stanley as the future leader of the party, used to shake his head, shrug his shoulders, and mutter, "Heaven forbid! Why, the man is a German Latitudinarian!" And we suspect that many of the party entertain the same suspicions. He holds very lightly, if he holds it at all, the prime article in the Conservative creed, that a religious education must always go *pari passu* with secular instruction, and without the former the latter would be awfully dangerous; and once he startled Conservatism dreadfully by proclaiming aloud that, in his opinion, "all knowledge is divine." It is not wonderful, then, that the noble Lord inspires little enthusiasm amongst his party. The greeting, however, with which he was received on this Thursday night was hearty enough, and more than hearty. We suspect, though, that those cheers were not so much a greeting to the man as a shout of defiance to the other side as he unmasked his battery. There was in them a fierceness, a come-if-you-dare, and, at the same time, a triumphant tone, inspired, no doubt, by the thought that they had got the Government in a trap at last, and would soon be able to swallow them up completely. For we must remember that at this time it was pretty well settled on that side that the Government would be beaten. How could they escape so ingeniously-constructed a snare as this!

WHIPPING UP.

And now to adjourn to the lobby whilst his Lordship is speaking. And we notice that there is a good deal of active business going on here. Colonel Taylor and his assistants are flitting about like swallows; whilst Mr. Brand and his aide-de-camp, Mr. Adam, are equally active. Their duty is now to watch the members as they come up, and to keep those who are present from straying away, as members are prone to do if they are not well watched. Fancying, perhaps, that there will be no division till late, they may glide away to dinner unless the whip be near to bring them to with a crack of his thong—as a whipper-in brings up a dog that runs wide. Then there are the shaky ones to be attended to, and made right; and those that must and will go to be paired, and dilatory members to be sent for, and so on. In short, readers, the battle must be won mainly in the lobby by active whipping, and not in the House by talk, as you in your simplicity may suppose. It is a saying here that in great party fights speeches may gain opinions, but never votes, and that a good whip is more useful to a Government than the finest orator that ever wagged a tongue. And is it not so elsewhere? Do hustings speeches, as a rule, gain votes? Are they not secured in quite other ways? But softly. Here is an indication that the fight is to be won. This is the Earl of Derby coming down the corridor. His Lordship seldom now comes to the House of Commons; and here come, too, the Earls of Dalhousie and De Grey and Ripon; and last, though by no means least, the venerable Earl Russell. The game, you see, is up, and these swells have come down to see who will bag it. At present one would say that Colonel Taylor thinks that it will be his, he looks so cheerily; but he is always sanguine, and, moreover, members are still coming in. Those two men—one on the right-hand side of the lobby, and one on the left, each with pencil in one hand and book in the other, ticking off the members as they arrive—could, if they would compare notes, give us a wrinkle. But this they won't do, if you ask them; nor does it matter. You see Mr. Speaker is up. You can see him through the glass door putting the question. And now the bells are merrily ringing to call the straying members home; and now the door is shut and the division is on, and we shall soon know who wins. Lord Derby, you see, waits in the lobby for the news. The Earl of Dalhousie, in his anxiety, is peeping through the grating in the door to see the "Noes" streaming out and the "Ayes" filing in. The Secretary for War has mounted to the Speaker's Gallery, where he can see the scene in the House. It is still not quite certain which party will have the majority, but from outward signs, visible only to the initiated, we

should say that the odds are in favour of the Government. But hark to that shout! The Government has won, for that is no Conservative cheer. It has not the ring of the woodside in it, nor is it sufficiently prolonged. And it was so. The manoeuvre, though planned by a Disraeli, had been defeated; the ambush, though led on by a Stanley, backed by an Egerton, had failed. The Government, in a House of 551, had beaten their opponents by twenty-seven.

DINING, BORING, OR SLEEPING.

And now, if you be hungry, you may go to dinner; or, if you have dined, you may return to the gallery, and, lolling on the comfortable seats, take your siesta, lulled by the soft eloquence of Mr. Walpole, who will now move his amendment, and those small talkers who will follow him. You need fear no disturbance, for the winds have returned to their caves, the storm is over for a time, and the rippling talk for the next two hours will act upon your senses like sweet music. Dinner-time is a charming institution here. It gives nascent orators opportunities to try their powers. Dull bores, whom at other times the House will not patiently endure, may now quietly let off their steam; nobody interrupting, nobody heading. Some simple readers of ours may wonder that any man should choose to talk when nobody will listen; but this wonder arises from ignorance of the true nature of a genuine bore. Your genuine bore cares but little whether he be listened to or not. He talks because he likes talking; not so much that others, but that he himself may hear his voice. We have seen D. G., the prince of bores, on his legs, talking for half an hour when not a soul would or could hear a word that he said; and at other times he has poured out his tiny stream of talk when half the members present were fast asleep, and the other half thinking over speeches which they, too, would try to deliver when he should sit down. Nor is this wonderful when we come to think of it. The stars shine on solitudes, flowers bloom in deserts, birds sing to nobody but themselves, and why should not D. G. talk when there is nobody to hear? It is his nature to. And then what blessing this dinner-time for those of us, whether members or strangers, who want rest—too much so, perhaps, to go home and seek it!

A PITCHED BATTLE.

But, *Ohe! jam satis est.* No more of this strain, lest we, too, should be relegated to the category of bores. Moreover, the dinner-hours are past, the House is filling again, and Banks Stanhope is up, and with his roaring voice doth murder sleep. The whips, too, are busy in the lobby, and the second battle of the night has fairly begun. This is no ambush affair, but a regular stand-up fight, of which due notice had been given—fight to decide whether the county tenant franchise shall be £14 or £20. This fight we need not describe, otherwise than to say that there was much talk, but little worth hearing. And then the division; the division was the great concern of us all, for the question is one of the most important of all the questions raised by the bill; for is it not the question whether the citadel of landlordism, so long considered impregnable, shall be razed, and the fair fields behind, all hitherto more or less under aristocratic rule, invaded by traders and other barbarous people? In short, it is democracy against aristocracy, fairly pitted. It was but natural, then, that we should be anxious for the division. Great doubts were entertained about the result of the battle up to the last moment. Both sides mustered in force. The Government, as we know, has nominally a majority; but then treason has been busy in its ranks, whilst the Conservatives are loyal to a man. And we confess that, when we saw the vast, compact array of the Conservatives, and remembered that, though the Liberal ranks looked as imposing, there were Adullamites and other traitorous or lukewarm people there, we doubted whether the Government would win; and eagerly, from our perch in the Speaker's Gallery, we scanned the Conservatives, as they marched into the House after dividing, to detect and count the Adullamites there. And when our experienced eye picked out Earl Grosvenor and his brother, Lord Richard, Lowe, Horasan, Colonel Packe, Carlington, Gregory, Marsh, Elcho—and, it may be, one or two more—we thought for a time that aristocracy would triumph; but only for a time, for it occurred to us that there were many of the Adullamites conspicuous by their absence, and that if these were in the Liberal ranks, which we could not see filling in, the Government would be safe; but they might be absent; and, remembering this, doubt again arose. However, whilst we were watching the House was filling, and at last in came the tellers of the Noes first. The Noes, then, are all in before the Ayes; the Ayes, then, should be more numerous than the Noes. Yes, at first sight it would seem so; but the sign is not infallible. For the clerks on one side may be more expert in ticking off the names than the others. It is, however, a good sign, and it is always looked for with anxiety. The tellers of the Noes went to the table and gave in their number, and somehow, we hardly know how, we got it immediately in the gallery—283! That's a high figure, we thought; surely it must win. We were not, though, left long in anxiety, for, in a few minutes, the tellers for the Ayes marched to the table. A dead silence then fell upon the House, and every one was craning his neck and straining his eyes to discover who would take the paper; and when Brand took it from the clerk, by that sign we knew that the Government had gained the victory. And, now, what is the majority? To learn that we had to wait till the applause which broke from the Liberal ranks when Brand took the paper had subsided. At last, in clear tones, these numbers were announced—Ayes, 297; Noes, 283: majority, 14 for the Government. The victory was celebrated by a volley of cheers from the victors, and thus the fight ended. We have described the proceedings of one night only, and our space is gone; but then, remember, reader, these two battles are, next to the first fight on the Reform Bill, the most important events of the Session.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Alfred) took the oath and his seat as a peer of Parliament. His Royal Highness was introduced by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge.

The adjourned debate on the motion of Earl Russell, that the House should concur in the address of the Commons for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the existence of corrupt practices in the borough of Lancaster, to which an amendment had been moved by Earl Grey for a Royal Commission to inquire generally into the subject of bribery and corruption at elections, was resumed by Lord Ebury, and continued by Lord Grey, Russell, and Brougham; but, upon a division, the original motion, restricting the inquiry to Lancaster, was carried by seventy-seven to seventeen. Similar addresses were also agreed to in the cases of Great Yarmouth, Reigate, and Totnes.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MR. DISRAELI AND LORD CLARENCE.

Mr. DISRAELI, referring to a statement which he had made on a former evening respecting the conduct, at the Paris Conference, of Lord Clarendon, the English Plenipotentiary, who, he alleged, had entered into a conspiracy against the press of Europe, and the accuracy of which statement had been disputed by the noble Earl in the House of Lords, justified himself by reference to the records and protocols of the Conference, which showed that Lord Clarendon had concurred in the opinion of the Conference condemnatory of the excesses in which the Belgian press had indulged, and recognising the necessity of remedying the inconveniences which resulted from the uncontrolled license of the press of Belgium.

Mr. LAYARD observed that the right hon. gentleman had not, on the occasion referred to, confined himself to this particular accusation, but had also censured the conduct of Lord Clarendon with regard to the boundaries of Turkey and the nationality of Circassia; and for all these charges there was not the slightest foundation whatever. On the contrary, they were entirely opposed to the facts of the case, as might be clearly seen upon reference to the proceedings of the Conference.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Among the subjects discussed on the motion for supply were the management of prisons in Ireland, the returns relating to the office of Lord Lyon King at Arms in Scotland; the building and repair of fishery piers in Ireland and assistance of poor fishermen, the circumstance which led to the Great Northern steam-ship going ashore on the Lancashire coast, and the site of the Royal Academy. The further consideration of the Reform Bills was postponed till Monday.

MONDAY, JUNE 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

REVISION OF THE LITURGY.

Lord ESBURY moved an address to the Queen for the appointment of a commission to revise the liturgy of the Established Church, and in doing so referred to the case of a clergyman at Cambridge who had refused to read the burial service over the remains of a man who had died suddenly, after being turned out of a tavern when in a state of intoxication. There it was found that the clergyman had acted illegally; and he urged that the law should be so altered that the conscientious scruples of the clergy might be satisfied.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY opposed the motion on the ground that it would open up a subject the settlement of which was surrounded by great difficulties, and that no satisfactory solution could be arrived at.

The Earl of CHICHESTER supported the motion; but the

Bishop of LONDON said he did not consider the questions introduced by Lord Ebury were of sufficient importance to divert the attention of the Episcopacy from the matters of more real moment which they were at present engaged in considering.

Earl RUSSELL objected to the appointment of the Commission asked for by Lord Ebury, of opinion that the matters embraced in the motion had better be left to the Right Reverend Bench, and that inquiry by a Commission could only tend to irritating controversy.

Upon a division the motion was negatived by 66 to 20.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

STATE OF THE CONTINENT.

Mr. KINGLAKE drew attention to the present threatening aspect of affairs on the Continent, and the advice said to have been tendered by her Majesty's Government to some of the disputants, not through the Foreign Office, but by a Cabinet Minister other than Lord Clarendon. The hon. gentleman criticised with much asperity the conduct of the Cabinet, and concluded by inquiring whether her Majesty's Government could communicate any further information with regard to the reasons that had induced them to agree to a European Conference, which had subsequently led to no result, and what advice they had given to Austria and Prussia within the last two months.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER denied the justice of the inference that war might have been prevented but for the advice which her Majesty's Government had given. With reference to the charge that Ministers had given encouragement to Italy, he was not aware of any encouragement, direct or indirect, dependent upon any act or word of theirs, that Italy could truly be said to have derived from them in respect of bringing about a war in Europe. But Austria had been perfectly well aware for the last seven years, and even previously to that, as between one friendly Power and another, that it was the opinion of the British Government, and it had been expressed by the late Lord Palmerston, that it would be well, if it were compatible with her honour, that she should make an arrangement for the cession of Venetia. At the same time he hesitated not to say that the maintenance of the Austrian empire was of the greatest importance to the peace of Europe. The right hon. gentleman also justified the Government for acceding to the recent proposition of France for a conference of European Powers, and contended that their conduct in this instance was not inconsistent with their refusal on a former occasion, for the question of the duchies was now complicated with the further questions of who should be the ruling Power there and who should be at the head of the Germanic Confederation. As to any hope that the public peace would be preserved, he feared there were no grounds for entertaining a solid expectation of the kind, although he learned that there had been a momentary arrest of the military proceedings in Prussia, and that the departure of the King from Berlin had been delayed. With regard to the reasons which had led to the non-assembling of a conference, he had mentioned on a former day the demand of Austria as to territorial changes, and when, in addition to that, the question of the Elbe duchies was referred to the German Diet, it appeared to France, Russia, and England that there was no practical mode by which any combination of European Powers as a conference would be productive of a useful result. And her Majesty's Government had been very chary of tendering single-handed advice, respecting which they could not be sure that it would possess such authority as was likely to attain the desired end. He thought that the united action of the great Powers was a proper method of proceeding, and it was a matter of deep concern and grief to them that the plan of a conference should have failed to take effect owing to the obstacles that had been interposed. A long discussion then took place, which lasted till ten o'clock, when the motion was withdrawn.

THE REFORM BILLS.

The House then went into Committee on the Reform Bill, and Mr. HUNT proposed an amendment to clause 4, the object of which was to make the £14 county franchise a rating and not a rental franchise.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the amendment, and after a lengthy discussion it was moved that progress be reported. The Government opposed the motion, and on a division the numbers were—for the Government, 303; against, 254. The debate was resumed and continued for some time, when again a similar motion was made. This time the numbers were—for Government, 254; against, 212. The Opposition still refused to allow the business to proceed; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, protesting against the tactics pursued, consented to progress being reported.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

RITUALISM.

The Marquis of WESTMEATH drew attention to certain ritualistic, or, as he styled them, "novel and superstitious," ceremonial recently introduced into various churches; and, in the course of a long speech, cited various instances of practices which he denounced as Romish and illegal.

Lord RAVENSWORTH remarked upon the almost entire absence of the Bishops, which was justified by Lord LONGFORD on the ground of the inutility of the present discussion.

The Bishop of CASHEL denied the existence in his diocese of such practices as those now impugned.

The Bishop of CARLISLE, though reprobating ritualistic innovations, regretted that the question had been raised at this moment.

Lord BEAUCHAMP thought it only fair that both sides should be heard upon this question.

Lord HARROLD lamented the decline of episcopal authority.

Lord CARNARVON regarded the existence of different parties in the Church as an element of strength, and an evidence of the broad basis on which it rested.

The LORD CHANCELLOR having given a guarded reply to a question from Lord Westmeath respecting the legality of applying the offertory contributions to other pious or charitable uses, the subject was allowed to drop.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE GASWORKS AT HACKNEY.

The first two hours of the sitting were occupied in discussing the Gaslight and Coke Company Bill, which, proposing to erect large gasworks in the neighbourhood of Victoria Park, has created a great sensation at the East-End. The Bill, having passed through Committee, stood for "consideration of amendments," and ultimately it passed this stage by 169 to 138.

COAL.

Mr. H. VIVIAN, in a long and interesting speech, full of elaborate scientific calculations, and showing as well a minute practical knowledge of the subject, moved for a Royal Commission to inquire into the extent of our coal-fields, the consumption of coal, and other points connected with this question. After some prefatory remarks, he divided his subject under these heads—the depth at which coal could be profitably worked; the amount of coal actually known to exist, and which might possibly exist in undiscovered coal-fields; the rate of consumption, and the necessity of economy. In dealing with the first point, he combated Mr. Hall's assertion that coal could not be worked below 4000 ft., remarking that it would cut off from the South Wales coal district 24,000 million tons, of the value of £6,000,000, and showed, by relating a series of practical experiments which had been made, that the objections to deep pits on the ground of temperature, pressure, and expense were unfounded, and that they could be worked with as much health, comfort, and safety to miners, and with as little expense, comparatively, as shallow pits; and that hitherto, as a matter of experience, the additional cost of sinking deeper had been more than compensated by the additional amount of coal obtained. He gave some interesting details as to the extent of our known coal-fields, which he placed at 2770 square miles, containing 84,000,000,000 tons; but gave many strong reasons and quoted high authorities for believing that under the Permian and other strata there existed coal-fields three or four times as extensive, which were within the reach of man, and that in all probability the south of England was full of assignable coal. On the question of future consumption he declined to make any predictions, but contended that consumption ought not to increase at a more rapid rate than the population, which was at present about 1 1/5 per cent; and, applying it to the manufacture of iron, he showed by a *reductio ad absurdum* that Mr. Jeavons's theory of geometrical progression in the consumption was fallacious and entirely untrustworthy, concluding that there was no ground for the dismal prophecies which had been uttered on this point. By the adoption of the "long wall" system, in place of the "pillar and stall," he showed that considerable economy might be obtained in the working of coal, and in regard to its consumption he indicated various inventions which had been and might be expected to be made to effect a large saving. He adverted, in conclusion, to Mr. Torrens's amendment for confounding the inquiry to the Geological Survey, and gave his reasons for preferring a commission composed not only of scientific but practical men.

Mr. LINDELL seconded the motion; and, though not apprehending any imminent failure in our coal supplies, urged the necessity—looking to the importance of the material to our commercial superiority—of adopting every safeguard for the economical consumption of coal.

Mr. M'CULLAGH TORRENS moved as an amendment, "That a special report as to the extent, quality, and cost of working coal in the United Kingdom be directed to be made by the persons charged with the conduct of

the Geological Survey." He did not press it very forcibly, but insisted that, in whatever form it was conducted, the inquiry should be thorough.

Sir G. GREY intimated that the Government, being fully sensible of the importance of accurate information on this subject, would grant the inquiry, and being unwilling to delay the completion of the important work on which the Geological Survey was engaged, they preferred the proposal of Mr. Vivian, to confide the inquiry to a Royal Commission, on which it was hoped Sir R. Murchison would serve.

After some discussion, the amendment was withdrawn and the original motion agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OXFORD TESTS ABOLITION BILL.

On the motion for going into Committee on the Oxford Tests Abolition Bill, Mr. NEATE moved, by way of amendment, that a Royal Commission should be appointed to inquire into the whole subject. The amendment was opposed and subsequently withdrawn.

The House went into Committee on the bill, and Sir WILLIAM HEATHCOTE proposed an amendment to clause 1, which would have had the effect of neutralising the intended operation of the bill.

A long discussion ensued, chiefly remarkable for the opposition given to the bill by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Finally, the amendment was negatived by 245 votes to 172, and the bill passed through Committee.

POOR RELIEF (IRELAND).

Mr. C. R. BARRY moved the second reading of the Poor Relief (Ireland) Law Amendment Bill.

Mr. GREGORY moved the rejection of the measure, and a debate ensued which lasted until a quarter to six o'clock, when it stood adjourned.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord LYTTELTON moved the second reading of the Rights of Dramatising Works of Fiction Bill, the object of which was to protect the authors of works of fiction from having their productions dramatised without their consent, and which had been introduced at the instance of Mrs. Wood, authoress of "East Lynn."

Lord TAUNTON moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months; which motion was carried by a majority of 89 to 11.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

Lord PROBY read a message from her Majesty in reply to the joint addresses of both Houses praying her Majesty to appoint commissions to inquire into the existence of corrupt practices at the late elections for Totnes, Reigate, Lancaster, and Great Yarmouth. Her Majesty had been pleased to give directions for the appointment of the hon. members named as commissioners to inquire into the existence of such practices.

THE REFORM BILL.

After a number of miscellaneous topics had been discussed the House went into Committee on the Representation of the People Bill, when the debate on Mr. Hunt's amendment in favour of a county rating franchise was resumed.

Colonel L. LINDSAY confessed that he liked the amendment less than that introduced by the hon. member for the University of Cambridge, but it was an improvement upon that proposed by the Government, and should receive his support. He hoped a rating franchise would also be introduced into the boroughs.

Mr. DU CANE quoted at length passages from speeches made by Earl Russell, Lord Palmerston, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the proposal for a £10 franchise, in which they stated that town constituencies ought to be confined to themselves, or they would overwhelm the farm and landed interests in the counties. The same arguments would apply to a £14 rental franchise, which would be no fair representation of the different interests in Parliament. For that reason he should support the amendment, because, if the Government proposal were agreed to, it would entirely destroy the Conservative party in that House.

Mr. AYRTON hoped the Government would not be deterred by speeches from the other side of the House from pressing forward this bill. He maintained that the provision for a land franchise was a great concession largely in favour of the landed interest. In comparing the rates value in landed and house occupancy, he said that in rating house property allowances were made from fifteen to fifty per cent, while on landed property there was no deduction at all; so that the present proposal of the Government was more favourable to the views of the Opposition than the amendment.

Sir R. KNIGHTLEY said he objected to the measure because he believed it would virtually disfranchise all the small freeholders.

Mr. GOSCHEN combated the calculations of those who had opposed the clause, and assured them that if the clause passed as it at present stood it would not let in that large number of householders to the register which they had feared.

Mr. HENLEY contended that the proposed system would be open to the same objection as the rating system, and would lead to precisely the same result.

The Solicitor-General defended the clause, amid loud cries for a division.

The Committee then divided, when the amendment was negatived by a majority of 280 to 275.

The announcement was received with loud cheers from the Ministerial side of the House.

Mr. BANKS-STANHOPE moved to leave out the section of the clause requiring that for the £14 county franchise the qualification should consist of a house in which the person resided, or a house with land, the former being not less than £8 in value. He contended that if a house without land gave a qualification, land without a house ought to do so.

Mr. GRENVILLE considered the brick-and-mortar clause was a direct fault to the working classes.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the stock arguments of the last forty years against reform were that the land would be ruined—they had been reproduced on the present occasion—but it so happened that every dreaded change had turned out at last to the benefit of the landed interest. His right hon. friend, Mr. Villiers, at one time had been held up as the greatest enemy and destroyer of the land, and yet both sides now admitted that he had proved its greatest friend. Once for all he would say, he did not admit that one jot or tittle of the charges brought against the Government as to their desire to injure the landed interest was true. He objected to the amendment because it would lead to the manufacture of indefinite votes. In a spirit of conciliation concessions had already been made, and, following that spirit, he would say Government did not wish to include or exclude any one class, but to carry out the principles they had laid down of acting fairly and justly to all.

After a long discussion, the Committee divided:

For the Amendment	361
Against	74
Majority	297

The Government voted with the majority.

Mr. HUNT then moved that the omission of that part of the clause which provided that the £50 qualification should be one holding under one landlord. After a lengthened discussion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that hon. members were under the impression that the amendment was to rectify a defect in the Chancery clause; but, the fact was, it left the Chancery clause just where it was.

After a few words from Lord Cranbourne,

Mr. HUNT said he had prepared the words to insert instead of them, provided he should be able to induce the Committee to agree to his amendment.

The amendment was then negatived without a division.

The clause as amended was then agreed to, and the Chairman was ordered to report progress.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer fixed the consideration of the bill again for Monday.

SHOOTING-STARS.—At the meeting of the Royal Institution, a few evenings ago, Mr. Alexander Herschel read a paper "On the Shooting-Stars of 1865-6, and on the Probability of the Theory of their Cosmical Origin." He first gave the history and the progress of the recent interesting and active inquiry into the nature and origin of these meteors, dating from the exceedingly brilliant shower of 1833, and then dwelt on the periodicity of the August and November showers, urging, upon these grounds, that the coming August shower should be one of remarkable display. The geometrical method of estimating their height was illustrated by a simple but highly elucidatory model; and their heights of first appearance, of disappearance without falling to the earth, and the average length of their visible or igneous courses were respectively stated as seventy, fifty-four, and forty-six miles; their usual velocity being at thirty-four miles per second, or nearly double that of the earth. They invariably descend towards the earth, no trustworthy instance of an opposite direction being known, and generally in all showers they come from some particular circumscribed area or radiant point in the heavens, this radiant point being, in reality, the vanishing point in the perspective of their luminous orbits, and thus is indicated their parallel progress from a particular region. In their physical nature, the lecturer regarded them as being of the same general character as the meteoric stones which have fallen to the earth, although often of considerably larger dimensions, some having been occasionally seen of equally apparent size as the moon. Their origin he considered to be the same as that of the earth; and he showed, by some well-considered experiments and exhibitions, by means of the electric lamp, that from the nature of their light they were solid bodies, although probably the luminosity of their trains was often due to incandescent gas. To determine this at the next and future observations of the periodic showers, he proposed the use of an instrument furnished with two prisms for the spectral analysis of their light, and observed through which the light of burning solid matter would give a continuous spectrum, while luminous gas would give single coloured or interrupted one. By other experiments it was shown that the luminousness of shooting-stars was not due to electrical phenomena.

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SOME SOCIAL TOPICS.

THE House of Commons did a very sensible thing on Tuesday night. The subject of the British coal-fields, and the probability of our stock of fuel being exhausted, or so reduced in amount as to seriously increase its cost, have occupied attention in a greater or less degree for some years past. Scientific men, going upon theoretical data in their calculations, have predicted that in a comparatively brief period the coal-fields of great Britain will so far be worked out as to make the difficulty, and consequently the cost, of coal getting so great as materially to cripple the industrial activity of the country; and early in the present Session Mr. John Stuart Mill brought the matter in a startling form before his colleagues in Parliament. Since then the House has shown that it was deeply impressed with the importance of the remarks of the member for Westminster, for on more than one occasion the subject has been discussed. On Tuesday evening, however, the matter was introduced in a formal and practical shape by Mr. Vivian, the member for Glamorganshire, in moving for a Royal Commission to inquire into the state of our coal-fields, the probabilities of their being exhausted, and the possibility of devising means for economising the existing stock of fuel, and also of working the deeper seams in a profitable manner. To this proposition the Government assented; and we may, therefore, hope soon to have a body of thoroughly competent men engaged in investigating this most vital question. Mr. Vivian contends that we are in no danger of exhausting our coal-fields; that there are immense stores yet untouched; and that the deep seams may, by the adoption of better methods, be worked to advantage and profit. We hope all this is true; and we trust, moreover, that substitutes for coal may be found, and means of economising its use may be devised, so as to obviate the danger to which we are said to be exposed of having to yield our industrial superiority to other countries from lack of the fuel necessary for carrying on our manufacturing and commercial operations. If we are in no such danger as that predicted, it is desirable that the public uneasiness on the subject should be dissipated. If we are likely to suffer from the apprehended misfortune, it will be well that we should know our fate. In any circumstances, the truth on so important a point should be elicited. We rejoice, therefore, that, from the labours of the proposed Commission, the exact state of the case will be ascertained and made public upon authentic evidence and trustworthy authority.

It seems that the defeat, a few weeks since, of the Imperial Gas Company's Bill has only pushed the nuisance a little further back from Victoria Park. Instead of gasworks within 300 yards of that great resort of the humbler classes, they are not to be erected nearer than 600 yards' distance. "A slender consolation, truly." Company is likely to triumph over public health, pleasure, and convenience after all. The bill of the Gaslight and Coke Company has nearly reached its last stage in the House of Commons; a majority of the members being determined, apparently, that the interests of the public shall be postponed to those of companies. The reason of this is not, perhaps, difficult to find. Many directors of companies have seats in Parliament; shareholders generally have votes; whereas the poorer denizens of Bethnal-green, Hackney, and the neighbourhood have neither seats nor votes. So we have the milk in that cocoanut accounted for. It is argued that, inasmuch as gasworks are situated as near to the Houses of Parliament and some of the West-end parks as those projected on Hackney marshes will be to Victoria Park, therefore no valid reason can be alleged against their existence on the site proposed. But this reasoning is unsound. In the first place, the West-end gasworks are on a much smaller scale than those proposed; secondly, whatever may be said to the contrary, the existing gasworks are a nuisance to the districts in which they are situated; and, thirdly, a main, though not ostensible, reason for the proposed removal is to rid the West-end of the inconveniences arising from this nuisance. If gasworks are not a nuisance to the West-end of London, why remove them to the East-end? Why incur the expense of conveying the gas to the West-end, if its manufacture there occasions no inconvenience? In plain words, the poor East-end is to be sacrificed for the sake of the rich West-end; and all this because the one is powerful in Parliamentary influence, and the other is not. If this sort of legislation is to go on, let us hear no more of the perfection of the existing Parliament and of its immaculate impartiality and disinterestedness. It is, perhaps, but a forlorn hope; and yet we trust that even at the last moment the opponents of the bill now before Parliament may succeed in defeating it.

We are in the midst of the dog-days, and hydrophobia is

fearfully prevalent. Scarcely a day passes in which the newspapers do not report some case of life sacrificed by this terrible malady; and still the plague of dogs remains unabated—in the metropolis, at all events. Dogs of all descriptions, from high-bred gentlemanly fellows to curs of low degree, still roam the streets unmuzzled and unchecked. People are still liable to be bitten any hour of the day and night, and to die in horrible agonies in consequence, without any measures being taken to effectually stop the mischief. Legislators, magistrates, and police are all equally supine. Truly the sentiment of this age is a strangely perverted one. We are tender with hardened criminals, yet harsh with unfortunate paupers; we are chary of interfering with the liberty or lives of mangy curs, and yet indifferent to the sufferings and painful deaths these creatures cause. Would the authorities bestir themselves to put down the dog nuisance, we wonder, were a Bishop, a Peer, an hon. M.P., a magistrate, or even, say, Sir Richard Mayne, to fall a victim to hydrophobia caused by the bite of a street cur? The sacrifice, we own, would be painful; and yet—we do not know—perhaps the experiment might be worth trial.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, accompanied by Princesses Helena, Louisa, and Beatrice and Prince Leopold, left Windsor Castle, on Wednesday evening, for Balmoral where they arrived on Thursday afternoon.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH presided, on Monday evening, at the fifty-first anniversary festival of the Royal Caledonian Asylum, which was celebrated at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields, under more than usually favourable circumstances, the guests assembling in large numbers, and all the arrangements, musical and otherwise, being carried out in a manner which gave especial éclat to the proceedings. Subscriptions were announced to the amount of 1200 guineas.

PRINCESS HELENA'S BRIDESMAIDS, it is believed, will be Lady Margaret Scott, Lady Caroline Gordon Lennox, Lady Bertha Hamilton, Lady Katherine Phipps, Lady Alexandrina Murray, Lady Ernestine Edgcumbe, Lady Elizabeth Parker, and Lady Muriel Campbell.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF DENMARK has proposed marriage to Princess Mary, daughter of Prince Frederick of Denmark, who is one of the richest heiresses in that country.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES HELD A DRAWINGROOM on Saturday last, at St. James's Palace, on behalf of her Majesty the Queen. The number of presentations was large, and they are to be considered equivalent to presentations to her Majesty.

THE HEALTH OF MR. ROEBUCK, M.P., has improved, but he has not yet sufficiently recovered to attend to his public duties.

CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOL, it has now been definitely settled, is to be removed into the country.

A TRANSLATION OF DANTE'S WORKS, by Longfellow, is now passing through the press.

MR. SAMUEL SHARPE has contributed £1000 to University College, London, towards a building fund for adding a new wing to the school.

MEETINGS OF ITALIANS resident in London have been held, at which resolutions were passed approving the effort to free Venetia, and subscriptions entered into to aid the movement.

CHOLERA still continues in Holland. In Rotterdam last week there were eighty-five cases, fifty-five of which were fatal.

THE OLD CHURCH AT WEST COWES, in the Isle of Wight, is about to be pulled down and rebuilt at an expense of £3000.

THE COURT-MARTIAL ON COLONEL CRAWLEY, of the 6th Dragoons, which took place a couple of years ago, has cost the country £12,000.

A FISHING ASSOCIATION is about to be established at Dartmouth, in Devonshire. The capital is £10,000 in £5 shares.

THE RECEIPT OF MONEY at the door of the Royal Academy Exhibition to the end of May, has exceeded the total payments of any former year.

THE 68TH REGIMENT, under the command of Colonel Greer, C.B., from New Zealand, disembarked on Tuesday at Portsmouth dockyard from the hired sailing transport *Ballara*, Commander J. Allan, and marched into quarters at the Clarence barracks in Portsmouth town garrison.

THE INTERNATIONAL ENFIELD RIFLE-MATCH between two twentys of Scotland and England took place on Tuesday at Edinburgh. The Scots were defeated on their own ground—the English twenty scoring 1070 against 1059 scored by the Scottish twenty.

MR. CHARLES BEAVAN, of the Chancery bar, and editor and proprietor for many years of "Beavan's Reports," has been appointed by the Master of the Rolls to succeed the late Mr. Kenyon Stevens Parker as Examiner in Chancery.

ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED AT THE ADMIRALTY for the assembly at Spithead of all available vessels of war. The frigates Liverpool and Falmouth are already at Portsmouth, and will form the nucleus of the squadron.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE has again made its appearance in the north of Ireland, at a place called Drumza, five miles from Lisburn, in the county of Down.

A MOST DISASTROUS FIRE broke out last week in the large tailoring establishment of Mr. Delany, in Dublin, which was destroyed—Mrs. Delany, her three daughters, and a young man named Strahan, being also burnt to death. Several other houses were destroyed, but without further loss of life.

THE COLLECTION of the late Gorden Cumming, African traveller, has been sold by auction in London, and almost entirely bought up by the agents of Barnum of New York, for his new museum. An elephant's skull with tusks fetched 100 guineas.

MARSHAL WRANGEL is said to have applied to the King of Prussia repeatedly to obtain a superior command in the approaching campaign, but without success. The old man, however, is rumoured to be determined in any case to accompany the regiment of Cuirassiers in which he has served, and to carry their standard.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS has applied to the Lords of the Treasury for leave to extend his operations in the matter of our Early Chronicles from MSS. to printed books, some of these printed books being almost as rare as MSS. The Lords have consented to the proposal, but recommend that the sum annually granted by Parliament for the publication be reduced from £3000 to £2000.

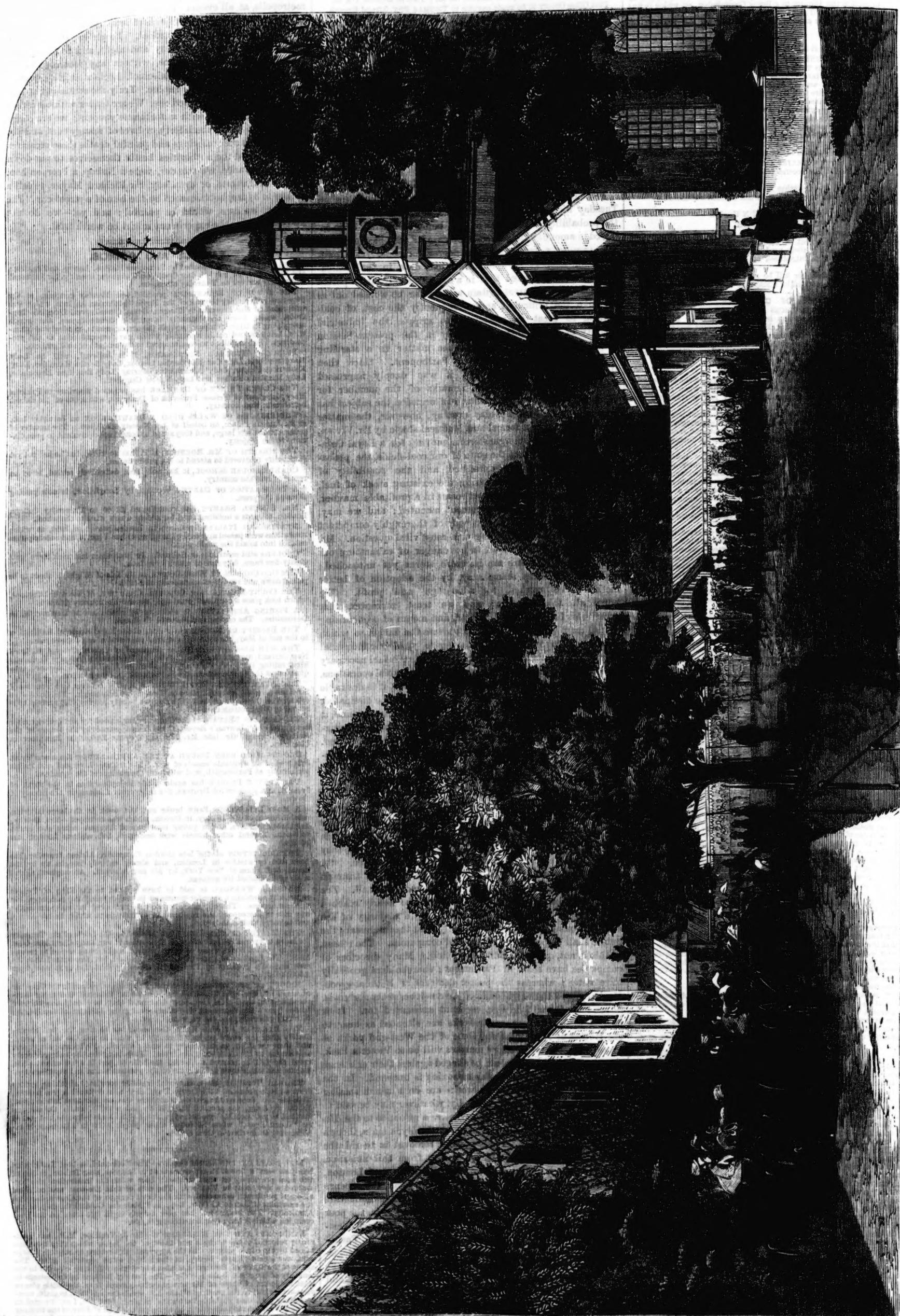
HERR TWESTEN, who was prosecuted for his liberal speech in the Chamber of Deputies, has been acquitted by the Berlin Criminal Court, notwithstanding that the Public Prosecutor demanded that he should be sentenced to one year's imprisonment for calumniating the Minister of Justice, the Ministry generally, and the Supreme Court.

THE BELLMAN OF MID KIRK, Greenock, has to ring the bell immediately after ten every night. Recently he went to toll the bell as usual, and then sat down in the belfry to smoke a weed. He became sleepy and was woken by the clock striking eleven. Forgetting that he had previously rung the bell, he started up, seized the bell rope, and in a few minutes had worked the whole town into a state of the greatest alarm and mystification.

THOMAS HODGSON, the commercial traveller convicted of taking money from a betting man on "the Derby Day," has been granted a free pardon. This has been done on the ground that there was no felonious intent; but, on the contrary, the accused thought he had a right, under the circumstances, to get back his own money, which a short time before he had staked on "Lord Lyon," when he found other people were in like manner repossessing themselves of their stakes.

LIFE-BOATS ON THE IRISH COAST.—The National Life-boat Institution has just sent a fine 32 ft. ten-oared boat to Skerries, near Dublin, in lieu of the boat previously on that station. Last week the institution also forwarded a new boat to Wexford. The cost of this life-boat was collected amongst gentlemen connected with the Civil Service of the Crown, through the exertions of James A. Dow, Esq., and Malcolm Goldsmith, Esq., of the Admiralty. The institution has now twenty-eight life-boats on the Irish coast, on which it has expended about £14,000.

LANDLORDS AND THE RINDERPEST.—Sir J. Trollope, M.P., has generously returned to his tenants one third of the losses which they have sustained by the cattle plague. In the aggregate this return amounts to a large sum, one tenant (Mr. G. Drury, of Barholme) alone receiving £100. The agent of the Duke of Bedford has also issued the following circular to the tenantry of the noble Duke:—"Sir,—The Duke of Bedford being desirous to meet the losses of those of his tenants who suffered from the cattle plague disease previous to the passing of the Act which enables them to claim compensation for losses sustained after the passing of the Act, I am directed to ask you to inform me in writing, on or before the 1st of June, of the number and description of the animals (if any) which you buried on your farm, and which either died from that disease or were killed to prevent the spread of infection."



KEW CHURCH AND GREEN ON PRINCESS MARY'S WEDDING DAY.

CAMBRIDGE COTTAGE.



PRINCE TECK AND PRINCESS MARY OF CAMBRIDGE.

PRINCESS MARY AND PRINCE TECK.

THE marriage of a Prince or Princess of the Royal family, whether in the direct or in a collateral line, is always a subject of interest to the British people; and the amiable qualities and kindly nature of Princess Mary of Cambridge having made her an especial favourite

with the public, the accompanying portraits of her Royal Highness and her husband, Prince Teck, will, we are sure, be acceptable to our readers.

Princess Mary Adelaide Wilhelmina Elizabeth, born Nov. 27, 1833, is the third child of George the Third's seventh son, the late Prince Adolphus Frederick, Duke of Cambridge. Princess Mary

is therefore a first cousin of the Queen. Her mother, the widowed Duchess of Cambridge, with whom Princess Mary has constantly lived, was Princess Augusta of Hesse-Cassel. The elder brother and sister are the present Duke of Cambridge, Commander-in-Chief, and the Grand Duchess Augusta of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who was married in 1843. Her Royal Highness will not lose the name by



ARRIVAL OF PRINCESS MARY AND PRINCE TECK AT ASHRIKE HOUSE, NEAR BERKHAMSTEAD, THE SEAT OF EARL BROWNLOW.

which she is endeared to the people of England, but will still be called Princess Mary.

Prince Teck, Francis Paul Charles Louis Alexander, Count of Hohenstein, is the only son of Duke Alexander of Wirtemberg, a cousin of the present King of Wirtemberg: his mother was the daughter of the Hungarian Protestant Count Rhéday, whose family holds one of the foremost places among the great noble houses of Hungary and Transylvania. On her marriage she was made Countess of Hohenstein in her own right, according to the custom prevailing at the German Courts, in the same manner as upon the daughter of the Duke of Richmond the title of Countess Dornburg has been bestowed, on her marrying the Prince of Saxe-Weimar.

By the German law, however, the marriage of this lady to Duke Alexander of Wirtemberg was only recognised as amorganatic one; and consequently, as we learn from the *Almanach de Gotha*, the issue (one son and two daughters) only bore the titles of Count and Countesses of Hohenstein until Dec. 1, 1863, when a Royal decree of the King of Wirtemberg conferred upon them the titles of Prince and Princesses Teck. Prince Teck was born Aug. 27, 1837. He held till lately a commission as cavalry officer in the Austrian service, from which he has now retired.

Prince Teck has now been in England a considerable time, and it may be truly said that he has won "golden opinions from all sorts of people." Those who have had the pleasure of meeting him in society testify to his ready intelligence and his genial nature; whilst he is very widely known as a fine young Prince, with a brave, honest, handsome face, and the frankly courteous bearing of a gentleman.

ASHRIDGE PARK.

ASHRIDGE PARK, the residence of Earl Brownlow, and where her Royal Highness Princess Mary of Cambridge is now passing her honeymoon with her husband, Prince Teck, though usually said to be in Hertfordshire, is really not so, but in Bucks, which here comes "crinking" into Herts in a very odd fashion, cutting "a huge canteal out," in which canteal Ashridge is included. William Spencer Brownlow Egerton-Cust, the second Earl, born in 1842, is the son of the late John Hume Egerton, Viscount Alford, and succeeded his grandfather in 1853. He assumed the name of Cust, by Royal license, in 1863. The first Baron was elevated to the Peerage in consideration of the services of his father, who had been Speaker of the House of Commons from 1761 to 1770. The Brownlows are a branch of the great house of Egerton, Earls of Ellesmere, and who counted among their number the famous Duke of Bridgewater. The real founder of the family, however, was the celebrated Lord Chancellor Egerton, afterwards Earl of Ellesmere. Ashridge Park, we believe, passed to Earl Brownlow on the extinction of the direct line of the Bridgewater Egertons in the person of the late Countess.

There is something appropriate in Princess Mary taking up her abode at Ashridge for a time; for the spot, although not the present house, is associated with Royalty from olden times. The chief property about here was given to the monastery of Ashridge, founded by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, in 1283. The founder had a castle at Ashridge, in which Edward I. kept his Christmas in 1290 and remained five weeks, during which time he held a Parliament there. The Earl of Cornwall, who died in 1300, endowed the Convent of Bonhommes with the manors of Pitstone and Ashridge. The estate was kept in the hands of the Crown at the dissolution of the monasteries, and Ashridge became a Royal Palace. It was the frequent residence of Princess (afterwards Queen) Elizabeth, who had a grant of it from her brother, Edward VI., in 1552; and she was at this seat when taken into custody on suspicion of being concerned in Sir Thomas Wyatt's conspiracy. In 1602 the property came into the possession of Lord Chancellor Ellesmere, ancestor of the Earls of Bridgewater and Ellesmere and of Earl Brownlow.

The remains of the conventional buildings, consisting of the hall and cloisters, were pulled down by the Duke of Bridgewater; and the present house was erected by John William, seventh Earl of Bridgewater. The north, or carriage front, is bounded on the east by a row of majestic lime-trees, and on the west by one of stately elms, equally fine, and includes a length of about 1000 ft., intersected by a variety of towers and battlements, among which, nearly in the centre of the range, is the chapel spire, rising to the height of 142 ft. The entrance porch is formed by a projecting arch with bold mouldings and octagonal towers at each angle. The front is decorated with foliated spandrels and open battlements, with shields, rosettes, and portcullises. On the east side of the house is a terrace ornamented with a statue of Queen Elizabeth, in Malta stone, by Westmacott, which is placed in a niche decorated with a carved corbel, panelled octagon towers, and rich canopy, and fronts the south. The entrance hall is surrounded by a line of armorial bearings; and on the corbels supporting the timber-framed roof are the arms of Lord Chancellor Ellesmere and of his descendants, down to the seventh Earl of Bridgewater. Over the fireplace is a portrait of the venerable Chancellor, and opposite to it an heraldic table, representing the genealogy of the house of Egerton. To the right of the entrance is an inscription to the effect that the foundation-stone of the mansion was laid, on the 25th of October, 1808, by Catherine Anne, Countess of Bridgewater. James Wyatt was the architect of the structure. The building was finished and inhabited in October, 1814; Jeffery Wyatt, after the decease of his father, having superintended the completion of the work, and designed the great north door, stables, &c., which were erected in 1817. Ashridge House, therefore, is but a modern structure; but, as it was designed in imitation of the old castellated Norman style, it looks more ancient than it really is.

Having passed through the great hall, an ascent under the double archways that support the galleries leads to the grand staircase, which occupies a space of 38 ft. square and is 95 ft. high. The walls are of stone, decorated with niches, corbels, and canopies. The ceiling is richly adorned, having in the centre a wind-dial. There are several niches filled with statues of illustrious personages, among whom are Edmund of Cornwall, the founder of the monastery, the brotherhood of which was known as the College of Bonhommes; Richard, King of the Romans, and Sanchia his wife; the Black Prince; St. Benedict, the tutelar saint of the college, and others. On the first landing, placed on a corbel and under a canopy, is a statue, by Westmacott, of Edward VI.; and opposite to this, over the fireplace, is a portrait of Henry de Grey, the last Duke of Kent of that family. In the staircase hall there are several carved table frames of oak, covered with Oriental alabaster, and some with polished Purbeck marble slabs, formerly used as the gravestones of members of the college. The walls of the drawing-room, which is 50 ft. by 30 ft., are covered with crimson damask, the floors and doors are of oak, and the ceiling and coved cornices are partially gilt. The windows, which have a southern aspect, open upon a terrace, commanding a fine view of the neighbouring country. There are here and in the other apartments, which are all upon a like style of magnitude and elegance, several very fine pictures, including portraits of various members of the Egerton family.

On the north side of the dining-room a corridor of seven arches connects the chapel with the body of the house. A perforated oak screen divides the choir from the nave. The ceiling is highly wrought, and the windows are filled with painted glass. The altarpiece, elaborately carved, is inclosed with a brass railing. The pulpit and reading-desk, placed opposite each other, are somewhat elevated above the highest seats in the stalls. At the end of the stalls are two richly-carved canopies, which formed the seats of the Earl and Countess of Bridgewater, and are now occupied by Earl and Countess Brownlow, when these noble personages are at Ashridge and attend service.

Attached to the house is a fine conservatory, 107 ft. in length, 20 ft. in width at each end, and 30 ft. in the centre. The conservatory has an open-worked oak roof, and is lighted by eleven large pointed windows. The gardens and grounds have been tastefully laid out by Ropton.

Ashridge Park is of great extent, is beautifully wooded, and plentifully stocked with deer. Indeed, a more agreeable drive we have

seldom enjoyed than that round this magnificent park. Starting as we did from Hemel Hempstead—and we would advise all who pay a visit to Ashridge to follow the same course—the drive round the park is quite a treat. Passing on the left the residence of the late Sir Astley Cooper, the eminent surgeon, the road winds along under an avenue of fine trees, which completely canopy the way. Ashes, elms, limes, beeches, and stately chestnuts—the latter, at this season, having their beautiful cone-shaped flowers in full bloom—make even the high road seem as though it were but a portion of a princely private demeane. About two miles from Hemel Hempstead a finger-post directs the way to Ashridge, and, entering through a gate, you can traverse the outer park at your own sweet will. There is a fine road for carriages, and a glorious green sward for pedestrians. The park is studded with handsome trees of various kinds, interspersed with hawthorns, singly or in clumps, all one mass of blossom, and exhaling a perfume that might rival the "spicy gales of Araby the blest." Within the boundaries of the inner park, however, unless upon special business, visitors are not admitted. But this is no great deprivation; for, returning to the high road, you have again that shady canopy of majestic trees, with fine views into the private grounds surrounding Ashridge House, and occasional peeps at the house itself, embosomed in wood. You pass through the hamlets of Great and Little Gadesden—so named from the river Gade, on the margins of which they stand—and where the eye is greatly pleased with the trim cottages and carefully-kept garden-plots. In these garden-plots, one of which is attached to each cottage, kitchen vegetables are cultivated—potatoes, peas, cabbages, beans, &c.—with pretty flower-plots close to the houses; and in not one was a weed or other mark of carelessness to be seen. Thus far we have been on the east and north of Ashridge. Now we trend round to the west, still skirting the park, and anon we come upon an opening in the woods, and have, on the left, a fine view of Ashridge House, with a beautiful grassy lawn in front, lined by magnificent trees; and on the right a tall monumental tower, up which there is a spiral staircase, and around which, under the greenwood shade, parties are in the habit of picnicking in summer. A little further on, and we suddenly emerge from under the overarching trees upon the large, furze-covered heath known as Berkhamsted-common. This common—or the Frith, as it was anciently called—was originally of very great extent, the people in the neighbourhood having the right, among other privileges, of cutting firewood upon it. It has of late years, however, been greatly encroached upon by inclosures, which have immensely dwarfed its proportions, though it is still of considerable dimensions. A recent attempt made by Earl Brownlow to still further interfere with the privileges of the commoners led to a singular scene. The circumstances, as nearly as we can recollect, were these:—The noble lord of the manor was desirous of confining the freedom of passing over a portion of the heath, and obtained the consent of a number of the commoners to his views, on condition of making roadways through the heath. Iron railings were accordingly erected along the line of the pathways left. To this other of the residents in the vicinity objected; and, after some newspaper controversy and a public meeting or two, a body of some two hundred navvies were hired in London by Mr. Augustus Smith, armed with crow-bars and pickaxes, conveyed to a neighbouring railway station one morning, and, being thence marched to the heath, were set to work, and speedily pulled down the iron hurdles, which still lie upon the ground, twisted, twined, and interlaced in the most fantastic fashion. This was done, we believe, in order to test the right of Earl Brownlow to inclose the heath in any manner; and "a grand plea" at law, now pending, is the result. On the heath are the remains, more or less perfect, of an ancient intrenchment, known as Grime's Dike, and extending in all to a length of some 1500 yards. Of the history of this work, however, nothing positive is known, although it is supposed to have been executed by the Romans, who had several stations in this neighbourhood.

Traversing the heath, the road now leads down a sharp declivity to the village of Northchurch, or Berkhamsted St. Mary, in the churchyard of which are some curious monuments, the most remarkable being that to the memory of "Peter the Wild Boy." This individual, when a mere lad, was found in the woods near Hamelin, in Hanover, by King George I. and his suite while hunting. The boy was brought to England in 1726 by order of Queen Caroline, then Princess of Wales, and put under the care of Dr. Arbuthnot. But, though every effort was made to teach him, he could never be brought to distinctly articulate a single syllable. The persons to whom the care of Peter was intrusted, domiciled him near Northchurch, and there he lived the remainder of his days in the enjoyment of such comfort as he was capable of appreciating, and there he died, when supposed to be about seventy-two years of age, and was buried in the churchyard. It is exactly one mile from Northchurch to Berkhamsted proper, or Berkhamsted St. Peter, as it is called ecclesiastically. Berkhamsted is a very ancient place, and must have been of more importance once than it is now, for we find it was a borough with fifty-two burgesses in the time of the Conqueror. It is chiefly famous now as the site of the nurseries of the Lanes, the celebrated rose-growers and general florists; and from the parsonage-house having been the birthplace of the poet Cowper, who first saw the light there in 1731. From Berkhamsted back to Hemel Hempstead the road leads through Boxmoor, past Row-dow Common (what is the derivation of this name, we wonder?), and Two Waters—so named from a river and the Grand Junction Canal running side by side. A finer summer-day's excursion than the one we have thus faintly described is not to be found anywhere in the neighbourhood of London. Princess Mary could scarcely have selected a pleasanter spot in which to pass the honeymoon. May she be happy there—and after!

KEW.

To the present generation Kew is chiefly familiar on account of its famed gardens; but for one hundred and thirty years it has been a favoured residence of the House of Hanover. Frederick Prince of Wales established himself at Kew. George III. resided there during his earlier, and also during some of the sadder, days of his life. It was at the foot of Kew Bridge that his Majesty met the messenger from Kensington who hailed him "King." At Kew the juvenile years of George the Fourth's life were passed, under charge of Dr. Markham. These and other associations of the past, with vague stories and anecdotes of Frederick's widow, of Queen Charlotte, and even of Queen Elizabeth, are removed as completely from the recollection of the busy London of the nineteenth century as the origin of the name "Kew," which seems to be a mutation of Quay-hough, corrupted into Kai-ho—the house by the quay! But the Quay-hoff, the House, or "Cottage" so styled, standing by the side of the broad green, as Goldsmith has pictured the spot,

Fast by that shore where Thames' translucent stream
Reflects new glories on his breast,

is a familiar object to Londoners, and has been associated as far back as the memory of the present generation will carry with the Cambridge branch of the Royal family. Cambridge Cottage has been the home of Princess Mary from her birth to her marriage-day. Kew church, standing on the green, close to her mother's door, has been her church. In the mausoleum behind its altar her father's remains repose. In the schools, the charities, the benevolent societies associated with Kew church she has been actively interested. And in that church, interwoven with the purest and the best reminiscences of her life, as the most fitting place for such a ceremony, on Tuesday the kindly as well as Royal Princess was married. As an edifice Kew church has no pretensions to any other description than as one of absolute irredeemable frightfulness. The taste of the gardener has happily been used to hide its ugliness with overshadowing chestnut-trees, and to clothe its nakedness with ivy draperies. Among the weather-worn tombs in its small graveyard, here and there the rue-fern peeps out of the joints of the masonry, and picturesque effect has been studied among the tombs, though disregarded in the church. Against the south wall are a tablet and medallion to the memory of Jeremiah

Meyer, R.A., painter in miniature and enamel to George III., with some lines by Hayley the poet, written in 1789; against the east wall is a monument to Dorothy, Lady Capel, 1721; against the south, one to Elizabeth, Countess of Derby, 1717; near the school-house, in the churchyard, is the tomb of Gainsborough, the celebrated artist, 1788, who occasionally visited his sister at Kew. Here, also, lies Zoffany, another famous painter, who died in 1810.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MR. MATTHEW ARNOLD, in an essay on Heinrich Heine, suggests that the word "Philistines" ought to be imported from Germany into England. The word, he tells us, describes humdrum people, slaves to routine, enemies to right—stupid and oppressive, but at the same time very strong; and, if this be the meaning of the word, I am inclined to think that it would be well to import it, as exactly descriptive of the so-called Conservatives. Conservative is not a good word. It is not sufficiently descriptive. In a sense, we are all Conservatives. But our so-called Conservatives are more than conservative—they are doggedly obstructive. Whatever is, with them is right. They are, as we said of them long ago, blind, and deaf, and lame; blind to the signs of the times, deaf to all warning, and in argument have not a leg to stand upon. For example, what reform bill, as far as the enfranchising clauses go, can, to be at all acceptable to the people, be more moderate than that which we have before us now? If we are to have reform at all—and everybody says we must have a reform, even the Conservatives allow this—surely we cannot propose a smaller measure than this. And yet the Conservative party, forgetful of the past, blind to the future—or, as was said of the Bourbons, remembering nothing, forgetting nothing—persist in opposing the bill, and mean to defeat it if possible.

But this is not all. They will sacrifice all honour and risk the degradation of their party, and I may say of the House of Commons itself, to carry their object. Last week they did a deed which ought to make every honest man amongst them blush when he thinks of it. I mean the attempt made to defeat the bill by a snap division. It is the custom in the House always to give notice of any important motion. It is not the law, I know; but courtesy amongst English gentlemen ought to be stronger than law, and the violation of custom in such a case as this is a violation of courtesy. But why confine it to the House of Commons? Amongst English gentlemen it is always and everywhere considered mean and ungentlemanly to take an insidious advantage of the ignorance of a man to do him mischief. But if the conduct of the Conservatives on this occasion was insidious and mean, their conduct on Monday was quite as much so. On that night the Reform Bill stood first on the paper; but as soon as business commenced, Mr. Kinglake interposed with a motion of adjournment, that he might make a speech upon foreign affairs. Mr. Kinglake had a perfect right to do this, and I have no doubt he was honest in doing it. It must, however, I think, be regretted that he did not postpone his motion till Tuesday. The delay of a few hours could not have been important. However, he did not think so, and he had a right to choose his own time. Nor would any blame have attached to those who followed him if they had honestly wished to discuss the question which he introduced. But they did not want to discuss the question, were not prepared to discuss it; many of them, indeed, knew nothing about it. They simply rose, at the summons of Colonel Taylor, to talk against time, that the Reform Bill might be thrown over till Thursday. There can be no doubt of this; for they had not even the decency to keep their conspiracy secret. On the contrary, they talked of it openly, and loudly boasted of their success; and, moreover, they do not scruple to let it be known that they mean to carry out the same tactics again and again. Now, I venture to say that this is not honourable, but mean, tricky, and what no English gentleman ought to condone or do. There is, however, another side of the question. Prince Albert once said that representative institutions were on their trial, and he got a good deal bullied for saying so. Well, we may say it now; and if this policy of the Conservatives were to be systematically carried out, representative institutions would prove a failure, for the prime principle of these institutions is that the minority should promptly submit to the majority. And still another side:—That debate, so forced and carried on by men utterly unprepared, and, in most cases, utterly ignorant of the case, has gone forth, all over the Continent, as the deliberate expression of English opinion on the present European conjuncture. Probably you have not read the debate. I heard much of it, and I will venture to say that more nonsense was never uttered in four hours than that which poured out from six to ten on Monday night.

It is said, and I believe truly, that certain Conservative gentlemen have expressed an opinion that Lord Stanley was decidedly wrong in bringing on his motion without notice; but, if so, why did they vote for it? for I see the names of these gentlemen in the division list. Out upon such cant and hypocrisy! Every man who voted for the amendment is a party to the trick. "Though I voted with my party," said one of high name and station, "I am not answerable for its policy." But what sort of morality is this for an English gentleman? It is as much as to say, "I disapprove of the wrong, though I did all I could to make it successful." Have English gentlemen become in matters of honour hair-splitters?

A correspondent writes from Demerara, in British Guiana, that a local Chief Justice has committed the publisher of a daily journal there to gaol for six months on a charge of "contempt of Court." The offence consisted in the publication of an article reflecting upon the conduct of the Judge in his official capacity. I am informed that, by the mail which arrived during the present week, an address will be conveyed from the local Legislature to the Crown requesting either the removal of the Judge for various causes, including that to which I have referred, or the submission of the matter to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The Judge is Mr. Joseph Beaumont, the prisoner is Mr. Laurence M'Dermott, and my informant is the writer of the article in question. I see nothing of the matter in the daily journals, though I learn that the Governor of Demerara has arrived by the mail-boat.

A story goes that Mr. Gladstone, on Thursday evening (last week), caused some amusement in the House of Commons by passing to several friends the recent number of *Fus* containing the cartoon representing Mr. Disraeli urging forward Mr. Gladstone as the rider of a donkey labelled reform, while himself dragging at its tail. The paper was afterwards shown to the Speaker, quietly, and then to Sir Stafford Northcote, who, sitting next to Mr. Disraeli, handed it to him, thereby causing a laugh not altogether hearty.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Fortnightly Review* for the 1st of June contains a good deal of excellent matter; some of it entertaining as well as informing. Mr. Robert Bell's article, "A Word for the Stuarts," is a capital specimen of a review paper—it would be hardly fair to tell the reader what the "word" is that Mr. Bell has to say for the Stuarts. Those who do not know beforehand what the substance of it is likely to be had better get the number. Mr. Peter Bayne has an article on "Ecce Homo" which is not bad, but which has all Mr. Bayne's irritating and dogmatic discourtesies. Who, in the name of wonder, expects, in the midst of such a paper as that, to be taken aside by the author, and told, in an authoritative manner, with no reason given, that Tennyson is a greater poet than Wordsworth? Such a dictum given out of place, with no argument behind it and no consequences before it, is positively offensive. Mr. Bayne, however, has seized and expressed a point of great importance in religious discussion. Mr. Lewes, in the "Causeries" at the end of the number, rightly rebukes the idle trick of discrediting effective writers in whom one doesn't believe by the word "superficial" (the whole of these "Causeries" being particularly well worth reading this month). But there is certainly a sense, and Mr. Bayne has hit it, in which the *religious sentiment* of writers like Rénan is "superficial." It is thin, expatiative, and volatile; it lacks volume and force, and inevitably provokes antagonism from the other side who see and feel, the dullest of them as well as the

brightest, that something is wanting in Réan, and in that something almost everything. The Hon. Leicester Warren's notice of Sir Alexander Grant's "Ethica of Aristotle" need not have apologised for it; it is a luminous, comprehensive notice. Of Mr. George Meredith I have recently expressed an opinion in these columns: it is impossible to follow his powerful story of "Vittoria" from number to number, but I shall have something to say of it another day. Mr. Hallah is always welcome, and he tells me, for one, more about Glück than I ever knew before. How I used to wonder, when I was a boy, what the war of Glückists and Piccinists was all about. Don't go and fancy I'm a hundred and ten years old—I read about it in a story of Madame de Genlis, called "Les Deux Reputations."

The *Contemporary* contains an article on Réan's "Les Apôtres," by the Rev. J. L. Davies, which is incomparably good. Mr. Davies, one need not say, sees very clearly that thinness of religious feeling of which I have spoken; and, without making any fuss over it, he manages to write a very damaging article. What Réan says about Paul and Barnabas is such utter rubbish—such invented opinion—that it almost throws a shade of suspicion upon all that the man writes besides. A translation from Homer in rhymed verse I do not admire. Mr. Trollope's Sketches of Clergymen (I forgot the exact title, and, by an oversight, it is not given in the article before me) are, to use the common phrase, "cut up"—and I think nearly all the criticism just. I do not, however, think grammatical criticism is just, without exception; and the author of the criticism is scarcely ready enough to take a joke, I think. However, Mr. Trollope wanted "taking down," and the able reviewer in the *Contemporary* has quoted some astounding rubbish of his.

The *Cornhill* is a good number. In its stories and in its "padding" (if that is the right way of putting it) this magazine has from the first been strikingly successful in keeping the golden mean between what is popular and what is *populacier*, and it has never lost that good-society air which contributes so largely to its success. It has had to contend with great disadvantages since the death of Mr. Thackeray—for the great man so stamped the magazine that it has come down to later readers almost as a new thing. We shall all be looking anxiously for the new tale by the author of "The Story of Elizabeth," which begins next month.

The *Argosy* is the best number that has appeared for a long time. Mr. M'Lennan ("The Primitive Marriage," M'Lennan) on "Bride Catching," Mr. Hawes on "Pianofortes," and a very lovely poem, by Miss Jean Ingelow, the "Coming-in of the Mermaid," are among the most delightful of the nine papers which make up the number. Everybody must be glad to see this magazine succeeding. Perhaps it may stimulate curiosity if I add, à propos of "Bride-catching," that Mr. M'Lennan's article relates to a tribe in the interior of Africa, who catch their wives by means of nets made of a material so extraordinary that all guesses as to its nature will be vain. It does not hurt the women; and, however incredible it may appear, it is quite invisible at a distance of a few feet. Even more startling still is the fact that the majority of the women of this race have *fair hair, not woolly, and blue eyes!*

Of the *Floral World* I will say just a word or two. At the end of the number there is a notice about a testimonial to Mr. Shirley Hibberd, of which he would be ignorant till he saw the thing in print. Some years ago I heard Mr. Shirley Hibberd lecture on Theodor Körner, at the Whittington Club. He recited the Sword-song in a most sepulchral manner; but I liked him very much, and I'm sure he has been a very hard worker. So, by all means, a substantial testimonial to Mr. Hibberd!

THE PROBABLE BATTLE-FIELD IN GERMANY.

WHOEVER casts a glance upon the map of Central Europe must at once observe the range of mountains which, starting from the Black Forest, passes through Germany from west to east, separates the basin of the Danube from the plain through which the Weser, the Elbe, and the Oder glide to the German and Baltic Seas, and terminates in the chain of the Carpathian Hills. This range about midway divides into two branches near the source of the Saale, which again join together near the sources of the Weser, and inclose in the so-formed quadrilateral the kingdom of Bohemia. On the north of these mountains lie the kingdoms of Saxony and Prussia; on the south the territories ruled by the Emperor of Austria. Bohemia, although a dependency of the Austrian empire, is geographically separated from the valley of the Danube, in which lie the majority of the provinces of the Kaiser, by the hills of the Bohemian forest and the mountains of Moravia. The advanced post of Austria towards the north, it stands as a strong bastion against an invasion of the empire from that direction, and is also a most valuable base of operations from which to hurl troops against the valleys of the Elbe or the Oder. It was this position of Bohemia which caused the destruction of Napoleon in 1813, when Prussia and Russia held the Elbe and Austria from Bohemia menaced his right flank. If he quitted his central position at Dresden to march on the Elbe, the Austrians issued from Bohemia and cut off his communication with the Rhine; if he advanced against Bohemia, as soon as he passed the northern mountains of that province the allies debouched from the line of the Elbe and separated him from France. It was a consequence of the natural configuration of Bohemia that, after having prevented the junction of his enemies by the victory of Dresden, the great Napoleon was surrounded at Leipzig.

Bohemia seems again about to play an important part in a European war. Austrian troops are already collected there, and no one can suppose that the object of their concentration in that province is immediately pacific. Beyond the Erz-Gebirge, or Mineral Mountains, and the Riesen-Gebirge, or Giant Hills, which form the Bohemian frontier on the north, lies, in the first place, the kingdom of Saxony; but beyond this again are the southern provinces of Prussia, in which the whole Prussian army available for service in the field is now cantoned. In the event of war, Saxony appears likely to be the first battle-field, unless, indeed, she can manage to maintain neutrality, which at present she appears not to desire. But in a life-and-death struggle between the two great German Powers it is impossible that the theatre of war could be restricted to one tiny kingdom; it is much more probable that it will extend nearly throughout the district which is bounded on the north and south by the sea and the Danube, on the east and west by the Vistula and the Weser.

This is a district not unacquainted with war. After the last attempt to overthrow an established monarchy in England it was the scene of that seven years' strife through whose baptism of blood Prussia advanced into the hierarchy of the great Powers of Europe. It was repeatedly trodden under foot by the conquering legions of the first Emperor of the French, and it was in its very centre that the battle was fought which led to the first overthrow of his power. Its wide extent is inhabited by two distinct races, and is the seat of two antagonistic creeds. The Teutonic race occupies the north, and in religion is Protestant; the Slavonic blood predominates in the south, owns the Catholic faith, and politically is under the sway of the Kaiser.

The basin of the Elbe is the central geographical division of Germany. This basin is divided into two; that of the upper Elbe forms a plateau surrounded by mountains, and in the kingdom of Bohemia; that of the lower contains Saxony and the central provinces of Prussia. The upper basin is in general ill cultivated, and has few internal resources. It possesses, however, immense forests, considerable iron mines, and breeds horses which are valuable in war. Its roads are few, mountainous, and bad; but it is a country easily defensible, for its forests, mountains, and rivers present at every point obstacles to an invading army. The lower basin of this river is, on the other hand, a country of plains, marshes, and small lakes; not very fertile, but well cultivated, thickly populated, and opened up by a multitude of roads. The Elbe, entering it from a close defile between the mountains of Northern Bohemia, runs through its whole length, passing by the fortress of Königstein, Dresden, the capital of Saxony, and the fortified town of Wittenburg. This river, within Prussian territory,

supported by the fortresses of Torgau and Magdeburg, forms a strong line of defence against an army advancing on Dresden from the west, but one which can easily be turned from Bohemia.

The basin of the Oder, bounded on the south by the mountains which overhang Brauna, Glatz, and Troppau, contains near the sources of the river, the provinces of Prussian Silesia. The river itself forms an angle near Breslau, which allows of its being used as a line of defence for the eastern districts of the kingdom of Prussia against an attack from either the south or west. This line is supported by the fortresses of Glogau, Küstrin, and Stettin. The country through which the Oder flows is in general flat, marshy, and wooded; the land is fertile only in pasture, but is well cultivated and inhabited by an active and industrious population.

The basin of the Weser, in which lies the western portion of the kingdom of Hanover, is bounded on the south by the mountains of the Thuringian forest and the Hartz, and is in general sandy and covered with thickets; its principal riches are flocks and herds. The Danube, the southernmost of the four rivers which appear likely to be introduced into the theatre of a war in Central Germany, runs through a plain which lies on the southern side of the Bohemian and Moravian mountains. It does not appear probable that a war which arose on the Elbe would penetrate into this region unless the enemy of Austria were so powerful as to be able to crush her armies and actually invade her capital; but it is from Vienna, situated in the valley formed by this stream, that her troops must be supplied, and that in former campaigns her Generals have been usually directed.

There can be no doubt that, in all future wars in civilised countries, the lines of railways will direct the routes pursued by armies either advancing or in retreat; for, although the actual combatant troops may not be moved by rail, the facilities which this mode of conveyance affords for the transport of stores and war material will necessitate its adoption.

Four main lines of railroad lead from Vienna to the Prussian frontier:—1. On the east, from Vienna by Leudenberg and Prenzlau to Oderburg, on the Silesian frontier. 2. By Leudenberg, Triebitz, Pardubitz, and Königgrätz to Zittau, on the Saxon frontier. An auxiliary line connects Leudenberg and Triebitz. 3. From Vienna by Passau, Regensburg, and Prague, to Dresden and the valley of the Elbe. These three are connected in Bohemia and Moravia by a transverse line, which, quitting the last-mentioned line, passes through Prague, Pardubitz, and Prenzlau. 4. From Vienna by Ratisbon, Eger, Plauen, and Leipzig. Four lines also lead from Berlin to the southern frontier of Prussia:—1. On the west by Berlin, Magdeburg, and Halle to Leipzig. 2. By Jüterbock to Riesa. These two are connected by transverse lines between Jüterbock, Wittenberg, and Halle, and Jüterbock, Wittenberg, and Köthen. 3. By Haasdorf and Görlitz. 4. By Posen and Lissa into Silesia. The last two in Silesia form a perfect network of branches, which render this province peculiarly favourable for military movements.

In the kingdom of Saxony all these lines meet, either directly or by means of branches, so that this kingdom appears to be an excellent central position for either attack or defence, and will give a great advantage to that side to which it may attach itself or by which it may be first occupied. Should the Austrians be admitted into or seize Saxony, the lateral lines in that country will give them such an advantage that the Prussian army on the Saxon frontier will almost inevitably be obliged to fall back as far as the junction of Jüterbock, in order to effect its concentration with the army in Silesia, and in this case it is not improbable that the first battle of the campaign may be fought here, where the nature of the ground is admirably adapted for a battle-field.

That a retreat of the Prussian army from the immediate frontier would be necessary for the purpose of concentration is evident from the fact that there is no lateral railway communication between Prussian Saxony and Silesia. Were the Prussian force on the Saxon frontier attacked, the army in Silesia must come round by Berlin to aid it, and to give time for this movement a retreat by the former would be absolutely necessary.

Literature.

Chandos. A Novel. By ONIDA, Author of "Strathmore," "Granville de Vigne," &c. 3 vols. London: Chapman and Hall.

It would be difficult to find a better instance than "Chandos" of the danger which besets the sin of fine writing and overdoing the luxury and the poetry of imaginary life. To us a remarkably clever book would have been lost had it not been for the fact that the reading was a duty. Had it been merely a matter of inclination, we should have dropped the first volume at the thirty-eighth page, and missed some good literature and some good excitement. From the first the brilliance sets in with seventy. There is a voluptuous "word-painting" of the height of the London season. Chandos is smoking a narghile from a great silver basin of rose-water in Park-lane, although all society is waiting for him—especially Sulla, with the rose-wreaths on his hair, and Quintus Roscius, ready with his ripest wit. A description of his study involves a shower about old masters and petits maîtres—Greuze, Cellini, Cousvo, Couston, and Canova. Elegy novels, MSS., croquis, before-letter proofs, and dainty female notes indicate further the taste of Chandos, whom a "painter would have drawn as Alcibiades" (not naked and tipsy, it is to be hoped), "or, more poetically still, would have idealised him into the Phœbus Lykēgenes, the light-born, the sun-god, of Hellas, so singularly great was his personal beauty." Anything that the classics can supply, no matter how mad the mythology, is mirrored here in connection with Chandos, until at last exhaustion sets in, and "Onida" has to fall back upon "brilliant as a Guise, lavish as a Bolingbroke, and splendid as a Buckingham." But things do not "fade into the light of common day" for nothing. There is a speedy reaction, with a very haughty dinner-party, a toast worthy of Lucullus and Ovid, and an intoxicating atmosphere of pastilles and perfumes, and wines and crushed flowers, and bruised fruits, and glancing tresses, and languid eyes, and lips fit for the hymns of a natallus. Then Chandos is addressed thus:—"He is the darling of the gods!" cried Flora de l'Orme, that magnificent Arlesienne, with her melting, Greek-like glance, and her cheek like a peach in the sun; while she leaned over him and twisted Catullus-like, in the bright masses of his long, golden hair a wreath of crimson roses washed in purple burgundy. Chandos shook the wine from his rose-crown as he bent and kissed that glowing Southern loveliness and laughed under his diadem of flowers."

Such is the insane style of the early chapters of Chandos; but it would be wrong not to state that this unnecessary prevalence of luxuriance—run to lunacy—is considerably curtailed further on. The writing becomes attractive; and, although much of the machinery in incident is well worn, it does but work with batter ease. Chandos is something of a Timon, and John Trevenna, the man whom most of all Chandos has befriended and in whom he places confidence that in involves the management of his whole enormous fortune, is a May-fair Mephistophiles, evidently founded on Sir Edward Lytton's Lumley Ferrers. Trevenna ruins the great man: his reasons are retained until the close. All the world cuts Chandos; but, although he has frequent fits of hatred and vengeance, he is always in able to subdue them by that contemplative philosophy and Christian sweetmeats which have already made him famous with the best readers and thinkers. This seems to be taken from the character, supposititiously intended for Shelley, in Diorac's "Venetia." But really Chandos is fearfully and wonderfully made out of a number of things which are not dead, but have certainly gone before. If he gazed in a mirror from disinterred Pompeii, he would probably see a reflection of Glaucus, of "The Last Days;" and we believe that many fair and juvenile readers would detect very strong flashes of the great author of "The Last Days" himself. The apparent danger of Chandos marrying his own daughter again takes us into Sir Edward's society with that disagreeable incident in "Ernest Maltravers;" and in one respect especially, out of many, Onida treads in the footsteps of "Guy Livingstone," by the prodigality of suffering assigned to the noble and spirited

characters who have gained the reader's love and respect. Thus Chandos is ruined and almost dishonoured, and his one friend, who stands by him gloriously, and who is a chivalrous French Duke, who might be a French King if he pleases, is shot in single combat, his antagonist being a mere Austrian Army! Onida should beware of extremes. The splendid attributes of Chandos are not in human nature—and a good thing too. Trevenna loses half his force by sometimes being so malignant as to make the reader laugh; and Duchesses, who are flattered by fashionable admirers, do not pursue hideous schemes of vengeance for twenty years when those admirers fall in love and marry in due course. However, we recommend Chandos for its attractive story and brilliant language; and we shall hope for a better book next time, with possible human beings, less of society which will not bear mentioning, and an acknowledgment of the many passages taken from Robert Browning.

The Contributions of Q. Q. By JANE TAYLOR. 13th Edition. London: Jackson, Walford, and Hodder.

The first of the papers collected in this neat, pleasant volume appeared in the *Youth's Magazine* fifty years ago; and, like the "Original Poems for Infant Minds," of which Jane Taylor was one of the authors, they have been largely accepted in serious circles. The majority of the papers, some of which are in verse, have precisely the characteristics of the *Hannah More* school in general. There is a curious mixture of literary ingenuity, kindheartedness, quiet domestic humour, religious traditionalism, and worldly shrewdness. The raw material of the stories, anecdotes, essays, or poems is wonderfully uniform in books of this kind. Open them at random, you are sure to find a worm, a toad, a clock, a "visit," a looking-glass, a drawer, a pilgrimage, and, above all, a "Lucy." There never was a "youth's" volume of this "Clapham sect" order (and the school was great in writing for "youth" they rarely, if ever, said, "the young," or "children"), which didn't contain a "Lucy," who is generally doing something with or to her "mother," "Lucy's walk with her Mother," or "Lucy's letter to her Mother." But all the writing of the Taylor family is characterised by good taste. You never have any bathos; you never find it dropping down to the level of "those friends of the Dear Redeemer who are in the habit of visiting the Isle of Thanet." But we are a little curious to know what reception this reprint meets with at the present hour. There is a parable which the venerable Isaac Taylor, who writes the preface, says is "classical," called "How it Strikes a Stranger;" and the burden of the parable is that one ought to be always remembering death and "preparing" for it. Now, in no respect has religious teaching more decisively changed since the "high and palmy days" of the Clapham school (the kind reader will excuse that scrap of Vincent Crummles) than in this—that its direction is now chiefly towards duty, with only a background of reference to personal "safety," while in those "high and palmy days" it was just the reverse; the main topic was "safety," preparing for another world—saving your own skin, in fact. In the intent of writers, like the Taylors of Ongar, there was assuredly no slighting of duty. Few of us lead lives so pure, so self-denying, so actively good, so variously useful as did the members of this remarkable family; but the effect of the paper in question, as well as of much of the remainder of the volume before us, is jarring to the modern mind, as that modern mind is represented by the best religious literature of the hour. There is, however, an enormous public which will not be "jarred" by anything that the Taylors wrote. To those who welcome reading of the kind, it is bare justice to command Jane Taylor's book as, perhaps, the best specimen that could be selected of the old-fashioned, playful-literature for "youth."

Vermont Vale; or, Home Pictures in Australia. By MAUD JEANNE FRANC, Author of "Marian; or, The Light of Some One's Home." London: Sampson Low and Co.

Miss Franc has strung together some well-written sketches of Australian life, evidently as a decoy-elephant. The real object of "Vermont Vale" is to inculcate the glories and mercies of the Cross and the Crown, and to make the long, long, and bitter lecture as little unattractive as possible. Once more we repeat that this hard-souled kind of teaching is in no way calculated to do good to young readers. It can only make them gloomy, and there can be no real Christianity without cheerfulness. It is only young girls of a peculiar and untrustworthy school who can like being talked at for 400 pages in the style of this volume. Katie seems to be pleasant, good, useful, sort of girl; but parcel of women freeze her nearly to death by lamenting that she is no Christian and can have no claim to a share of the Mansion. Katie, of course, finds it impossible to be a Christian in their style, because it is so dull. But when a dog caresses her and she is told that he knows her like a Christian, she says, "Like a Christian, Dolly? Ah! and I'm sadly afraid a great deal better than most Christians know me." Can Katie be "desperately wicked," after that? Perhaps the unintentional moral of the book is that, while all the devout girls are running after an unmarried parson, the parson disappoints them by marrying Katie? The amusing passages of "Vermont Vale" consist in occasional indulgence in colonial grammar, and which should only be taken with thorough consciousness beforehand. Some hilltops described are, it seems, "blushed with evening's roseate."

Chamber's Useful Handbooks. London and Edinburgh: W. and R. Chambers.

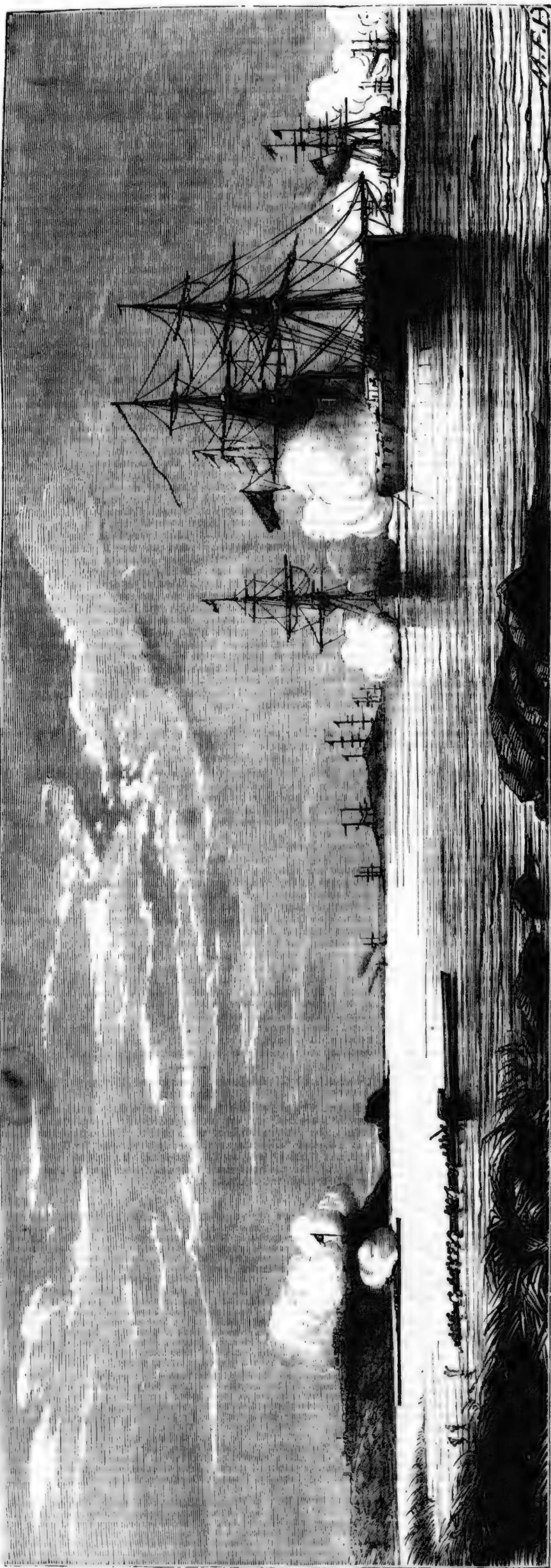
Messrs. Chambers have in many ways done good service to popular literature; and the present series of "Useful Handbooks" are not the least valuable of their efforts. The volumes we have seen comprise "Yachting and Rowing," "Cricket," "Gymnastics, Golf, and Curling," and are all excellent. This is the season for several of the pastimes described, and better guides than these handbooks could not be obtained.

THE ABYSSINIAN CAPTIVES.—Consul Cameron, the Rev. Mr. Stern, and the other captives may be expected very shortly in England. Dr. and Mrs. Boko have already arrived in London. It appears that her Majesty's ship Victoria has been ordered to return to Massowah for the released prisoners by the 10th inst. and to convey them to Aden. In the probable event, however, of their reaching the coast at Sawakin instead of Massowah, the Victoria is to proceed to that port and bring them direct to Suez.

A WALK OF 82,000 MILES.—A wonderful old man named Thomas Bartram resides at the village of Harome, in the North Riding. He has for twenty-four years been a woodman on Lord Faversham's estate, and during the whole of that period has walked to and from his work, an average of ten miles per day, in addition to his full work as woodman. He still wields the axe and continues his double march (night and morning), and is somewhat proud of his nearing the distance of three times round the earth. He is hale and strong, but not of any great muscular power.

A WINDFALL FOR THE UNIVERSITIES.—By the death of the Earl of Gainsborough and the succession of Lord Campden to the estates of the Noels, together with the earldom, seven livings lapse to the gift of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge or one of them, as the present Earl exchanged extreme Evangelicalism for Romanism some years back, and cannot present. The livings are:—Cottenham Rectory, Rutland, value £325, population 881; Whitewell Rectory, Rutland, value £304, population 139; Ridlington Rectory, Rutland, value £244, population 300; Teston Vicarage, Kent, value £238, population 268; Pickwell Rectory, Leicestershire, value £519, population 163; Chipping Campden Vicarage, Gloucestershire, value £640, population 2087.

THE OXFORD REGIUS PROFESSORSHIP OF GREEK.—The question of the endowment of the Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford was before the Lord Chancellor on Saturday last. It will be remembered that the salary of this professorship being only £40, it was proposed to raise it to £500 per annum. This proposal was several times rejected by the Convocation of the University on account of the unorthodox views of Professor Jewett, who was one of the writers of "Essays and Reviews." The Dean and Chapter of Christ Church then came forward and offered, out of their own revenues, a sufficient stipend to the Professor until the office should be properly endowed. The Dean and Chapter now petition the Court of Chancery to give its sanction to the endowment, out of their unappropriated revenues, of the professorship. The consent of the Crown, as visitor, would also be required. Owing to the absence of the Attorney-General, the hearing of the application was postponed.



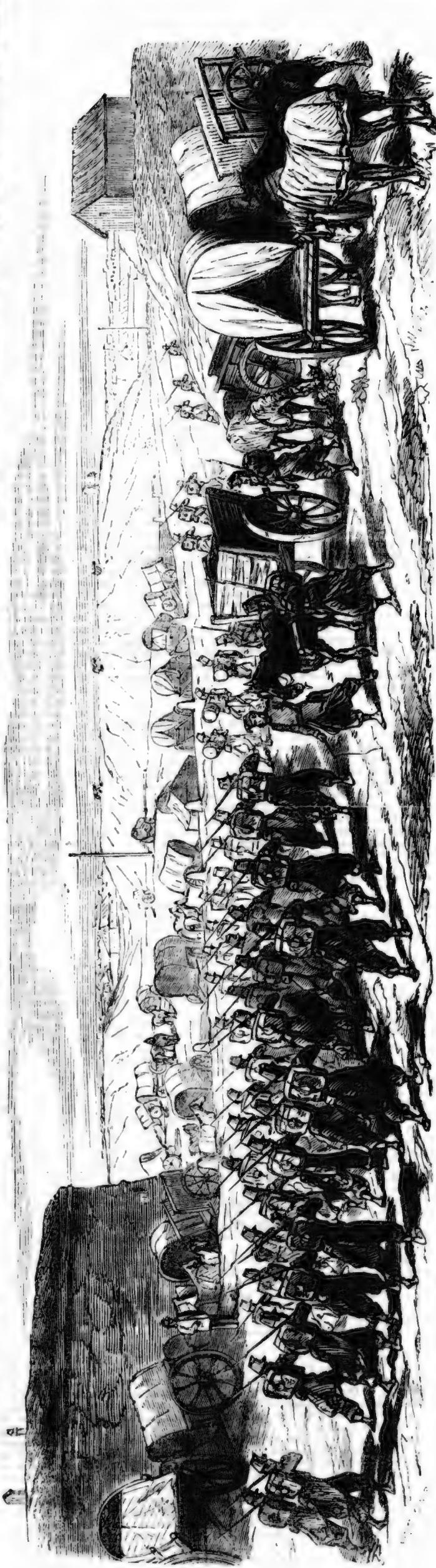
ATTACK OF PARAGUAYAN GUN-BOATS ON THE BRAZILIAN FLEET IN THE RIVER PARANA.

between the Brazilio-Argentine force and the Paraguayans. In spite of other overwhelming interests, a large share of attention has already been drawn to the new instrument of war which has just been invented by the military engineers of Paraguay, and which is called the *chata*. Under the form of a floating pontoon, this engine possesses sufficient force to hold its own against heavy vessels, and fight under the protection of its plated sides. The event which is represented in our Engraving is without parallel in the history of naval warfare.

The little State of Paraguay is bordered on the north by the Brazilian province of Mato Grosso; on the east by the River Paraguay and the Argentine States. In this way Paraguay is surrounded by a triple barrier of

ATTACK BY PARAGUAYAN GUN-BOATS ON THE BRAZILIAN FLEET.

THE correspondence from Rio Janeiro furnishes some strange details of an encounter (of which we publish an Engraving taken from a sketch)



THE OUTER LINE OF FORTIFICATIONS AT PIAENZA, OCCUPIED BY THE TRANSPORT CORPS.

water, formed by the Paraguay and the Paraná, and cannot be invaded except by a naval force, since Matto-Grosso is an actual desert, and almost impassable, being inhabited by savage hordes, and intersected by rapids and unexplored forests, so that convoys of mules, in the absence of roads, take eighteen months to make the journey from Rio Janeiro to Cuzaba, the capital of the province.

It is this position which has compelled the allied fleet to enter the Rio de la Plata, and to ascend the Paraná as far as its confluence with the Paraguay. This fleet consisted of thirty-three vessels of war, amongst which were four iron-plated ships—the Tamandare, the Barrozo, the Bahia, and the Brazil. The latter, obtained from the French dockyards of the Seine, carried a sort of masked battery of a square form. The corvette was constructed at Rio, on the same model. To adversaries like these the Paraguayans could only oppose a flotilla of river-boats; but even these were not seen, so that success seemed certain to the allies. After having made a survey of the gulf, the Brazilian fleet drew up in order of battle, with the plated vessels at its head, before the little fort of Itapiru, on the Paraguayan shore. Behind the fort are wooded hills descending to the sea, and to the right and left an impracticable belt of swamps.

The only passage for traversing the Paraná, and which is called the Passo de la Patria, is to be found in that place, and the passage itself is protected by the batteries of the fort; so that it became necessary to destroy the fortifications of Itapiru in order to command the passage and land a force on Paraguayan territory. It was under these conditions that the Brazilian Admiral gave the signal for the attack.

The fire opened upon the fort, and in the midst of the thunder of the guns a strange spectacle was seen. A long file of men debarked at the point of the Isle of Santa Anna, on the left of the fort. These men rowed a boat towards the spot where the floating pontoon was seen; and though they were decimated by the fire of the guns, they advanced until they had brought the boat and pontoon under the batteries of Itapiru; some of the survivors then retired, and an awful explosion was heard from the pontoon; those who remained were engaged in attacking the iron-plated vessels of the enemy. The *chata* is an extraordinary machine—a sort of flattened pontoon, without sails or steam, and built chiefly of wood. Upon a sort of bridge is a 68-lb. gun, protected, when necessary, by a sort of blind or panel, in order that the gunners may arrange and clean it. The ball goes almost along the surface of the water, the vessel itself is almost imper-

ITALIAN TROOPS QUARTERED IN THE CHURCH OF SAINT BOCH, PIACENZA.



ITALIAN TROOPS QUARTERED IN THE CHURCH OF SAINT BOCH, PIACENZA.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF PICTURES OF THE FRENCH AND FLEMISH SCHOOLS.

THE French Exhibition this year, although it contains two pictures which have a world-wide reputation—the "Cesar" and "Phryne" of Gerôme—is by no means as interesting as it usually is. When we have passed the two works we have mentioned and some half-dozen others, we have exhausted all that there is of high-class merit. What remains, although considerably above the average of ordinary English exhibitions, is by no means equal to French ones of a similar character.

Most people will, we imagine, be disappointed to find how small the "Phryne" (92) canvas is. This is a compliment to the excellence of Gerôme's drawing, which is so admirable that the photographs by which it has become known to the majority of the public offers no clue to its size. Indeed, the drawing is so sound and correct that the photograph almost tends to impress us with the idea that it is from life, and so leads us to expect a large picture. The colour is not so faultless as the drawing. The flesh-tints are opaque and clayey. If the figure of Phryne the rose-tint of elbow and knee are forgotten, and the flesh is one uniform cold grey. There is also a strange oversight of arrangement in the composition of the judges' figures. A number of right arms raised at an angle of about 45 deg. tends to give a sense of repetition that is awkward, to say the least. It is not easy to see, either, why Gerôme has made all the Heliates so very old. The Heliates were chosen by lot from the public assembly, the only qualification necessary being that the elect should be over thirty. The expressions of the various faces are remarkably fine, and constitute, in our opinion, the chief merit of the picture. It is a pity that M. Gambart should have added a sort of explanatory note to this picture, in the catalogue, without having it revised by some competent person. "Hyperide" is scarcely recognisable as Hyperide, the cotemporary of Demosthenes; and "The Tribunal of Heliates" seems more like the judgment-seat of an individual than the gathering of the Heliae. By-the-way, has anybody ever noticed the odd fact that the name of Hyperides' client, who is taken as the example of perfect female beauty, means nothing more or less than "Toad"?

The "Cesar, Dead" (98) of the same artist is excellently drawn and finely conceived, though some objection may be taken to the composition, which brings all the interest down into one corner of the canvas. The colouring is perhaps a trifle too leaden. Cesar appears too livid for one so short a time dead. It must, however, be admitted that the picture, which is of colossal size, is not hung to advantage.

Alma Tadema is represented by two pictures. They are very fine, but hardly so original and striking as the "Cicero" exhibited at the gallery of the International Fine-Art Society, in Pall-mall. The "Portico of a Roman Theatre" (2), though it tells a story which is not very easy to read, is an admirable realisation of classic life. The only portion to which we can see an objection is the interior of the theatre, which seems to be artificially lighted, though the tone may be intended for the sunlight thrown through the velarium or awning. In the "Roman Lady returning from making Purchases" (3) the effect is injured by the grotesque disproportion of the child's figure. There is a careful attention to truth in the minute details of costume and accessories. The artist has not even overlooked so unimportant a matter as the outward opening of the Roman street door.

Baron Leys does not appear to advantage in this year's exhibition. A series of three pictures, "The Arrival" (130), "The Welcome" (131), and "After the Feast" (132), representing medieval hospitalities, fails to satisfy us. There is a lack of vitality in the figures, which stand grouped like lay figures without apparently any common interest. This is especially noticeable in "The Welcome," where the faces all stare out at the spectator as if sitting for photographs instead of looking at one another. The welcome could not surely have been conveyed in the usual form—"I'm glad to see you"—for the host is not looking at his guest. "After the Feast" is by far the most satisfactory; but the human interest in that is subordinate to the elaboration of the peacock and the other decorations of the banquet. The painting is solid and sound in harmony, if a little heavy. Three members of the Bonheur family amply sustain the high reputation of their name. A "Meadow Scene" (2), by M. Auguste Bonheur; "The Twins" (22), by Mlle. Juliette Bonheur; and "Near Ballachulish" (23), by the renowned Rose herself, are among some of the best things on the walls.

Meissonier paints with his usual delicacy "The Reader" (139)—a single figure, standing, book in hand, by an open window. But his other work, "The Halt" (138), is one of the happiest efforts of his pencil we have had the fortune to see. The sunlight in this little gem is painted with unrivalled felicity. Ruiperez follows steadily in his great master's path. His "Chess-players" (178) is a clever and careful study, showing a good eye for pleasant harmonies of colour and a thorough knowledge of drawing.

Mdme. Henriette Browne's "Nun" (30) is a soundly-painted picture, in which the drapery—especially the transparent crape veil—is cleverly painted. But it is a mere study from a model, and not a very interesting one; and it is hardly calculated to sustain Mdme. Browne's reputation. The works of her master, Chaplin, are, we hope, unfavourable specimens of his powers also. There is a garish, fresco look about them that contrasts ill with the silvery greys which generally characterise the works of the French school.

Duverger has a not very intelligible story in his "Return to the Village" (57), but there are some excellent paintings, some well-posed figures, and telling heads in it. The "Dancing Lesson" (67), by Carcano, is a quaint work, well worthy of a passing glance; and there is fine sunlight in Pettenkoffen's "Chariot" (160).

The Frères, Edouard and Charles, are well represented. Of the latter's pictures, though it is difficult to choose among them, we prefer the simple little picture of "The Bath" (83), where a tiny child is making her doll share her tub. Baugniet's "Morning Watch" (11), a young mother's vigil by the cradle of her sick child, is a charming work; and we can speak highly of Biard's "Souvenir of Central America" (18), a couple of Indians in a canoe hoisting a green bough by way of sail. In his "Lapland Lovers" (19), a couple of Laps in their cajacs making love under shelter of an iceberg, the eaves-dropping bear seems to us to be very exaggerated in size. Boichard's "Goldfish" (20), and Bonnat's "Dancer" (24) are pleasing little works, and there is much merit in Brown's "Meeting" (29A).

Dubufe's "Birth of Venus" (55) rushes into the opposite extreme to Gerôme's "Phryne," and is over-warm in colour. His "Grecian Girl Coming from her Bath" (56) is far more satisfactory. A good head by Dyckmans, entitled "Devotion" (60), should not be overlooked; and the same may be said of the "Fast Asleep" (102) of Mdme. Jericinian, whose other pictures are less worthy of note. Lehmann exhibits more of his somewhat mannered "Italian Women" (123). It is a great pity so clever an artist does not vary his work more.

Three pictures by Michael—"The Morning Toilet" (146), "The Lesson" (147), and "Tired Out" (148)—are exquisite specimens of the Flemish school. Patrois's "Two Soldiers" (159), and Poignet's "Important Despatches" (161), though little more than studio-sketches, are clever and attractive; while Schlesinger's "Young Lady" (178) is a charming and natural portrait, with a most pleasing expression. Serrure's "Temptation" (186), a pedlar displaying his wares before a young girl whose cavalier seems to be pressing a present upon her, is painted with all his usual sobriety and truth of colour, and all his charm of composition. Tissot's "Spring" (193) is dirty in colour, and in no slight degree reminds us of Millais's "Apple-blossom" picture in composition. Trayer's "Mother and Children Looking at Engravings" (197), and Van Hove's "Departure for School" (200), are fair enough works.

Veyrassat exhibits a truthful bit of nature, "Horses in a Field" (206), Verboekhoven some of his usual sheep and cattle pieces; and Schreyer has several pictures of Arab horsemen, of which the "Ambush" (180) is the best.

Space will not allow us to do more than to mention that Gallait's

the most attractive of all just now, however, is the old Church of St. Roch, which has been improvised into a temporary caserne for the troops. The volunteers have encamped there, and their bright uniforms, the regimental colours, the stands of arms present an extraordinary appearance in the midst of the old monuments and in the dim, religious light of the sacred edifice. Meanwhile, the whole town is alive with warlike preparations, and every public building is crowded with men, while the streets are busy and almost impassable with carriages and horses. The east line of the fortifications, too, swarms with the carriages, horses, and cattle employed for the transport of the army; and nowhere better than at Piacenza could a traveller gain a true idea of what is meant by preparing for war.

Of all the places in Piacenza, to which we have already directed attention as one of the great centres where the Italian troops assemble, perhaps the most important is the Piazza de' Cavalli. It lies opposite to the Palazzo del Commune, a town house which is generally regarded as one of the most magnificent structures of the kind erected in the thirteenth century, though only about a fourth of the original design was completed; and the fine turreted front and pillared portico are but indications of what should have been its great extent. In the Piazza de' Cavalli are bronze colossal equestrian statues of Dukes Ranuzio I. and Alessandro Farnese, which give its name to the square. And here have assembled a great detachment of the volunteer troops, to see and to welcome whom the whole population of Piacenza seem to have crowded into this fine area.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE performance of "The Elixir of Love," at the Royal Italian Opera, with Patti, Mario, and Ronconi in the principal parts, is something to be seen, heard, and never forgotten. Mlle. Patti is the most charming little coquette imaginable; Mario is the very ideal of a rustic sentimental lover; while Ronconi is the most amusing buffoon to be seen on the operatic or any other stage. Faure is rather a wooden "Sergeant," nor is Faure much of a singer, nor has Faure much of a voice. Mlle. Patti sings like an angel, Signor Mario like a poet, M. Faure like a goat. As for Signor Ronconi, he sings like Signor Ronconi, wanting no vocal requisite except a voice. We are sorry to have to speak harshly of M. Faure, who, in his way, is an artist, and who executes some parts (that, for instance, of Hoel, in "Dinorah," and of one other, which we cannot now call to mind) in admirable style. But the character of Sergeant Belcore is not suited to his peculiar talent, and he makes very little of it. Nevertheless, we repeat that the performance of "The Elixir of Love," at the Royal Italian Opera, is a most delightful performance, and that the three principal parts in this most graceful of comic operas are sustained to perfection.

Her Majesty's Theatre is fast becoming the recognised home of the great German composers. There is no other theatre in the world where more admirable performances are to be heard of Gluck's "Iphigenia," Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and "Zauberflöte," Beethoven's "Fidelio," Cherubini's "Medea" (Cherubini, in spite of his nationality, may be classed with the Germans), and Weber's "Der Freischütz" and "Oberon." "Oberon" was produced, for the first time this season, on Thursday, with a magnificent cast, including Mmes. Titien, Demerle-Lablaiche, Trebelli-Bettini, and M. Santley, Gassier, Bettini, Mongini, &c.

The most attractive concert of the season—so far as the season has hitherto gone—was that which took place on Wednesday morning at the Royal Italian Opera. The concert was precisely on the model of the one given some weeks ago by Mlle. Pauline Lucca, at St. James's Hall. A number of operatic pieces, a certain proportion of songs (written specially for the drawing-room or for the concert-hall), together with a few instrumental solos, made up a programme which was remarkable for its length as for its general attractiveness. Mr. Benedict was the conductor. There was no orchestra, and all the vocal music was sung to a pianoforte or pianoforte and harmonium accompaniment. Among the striking features of the concert, we must first of all mention a song by Mlle. Patti, to Lord Byron's words, "The kiss, dear maid," &c., of which the melody is charming, and, as it ought to be, quite English in character. Naturally, Mlle. Patti sang her own composition—sang it to perfection, and was encored. Another "feature" was Signor Mario's admirable singing of Schubert's "Adieu." Then Mlle. Lucca, who was in brilliant voice, gave the air from the last act of the "Trovatore," and afterwards joined Mlle. Désirée Artôt in the "Quis est homo," from Rossini's "Stabat." Mlle. Artôt's solo was Gounod's serenade, which she delivered most charmingly and was compelled to repeat. Signor Graziani delighted everyone by his rendering of the air from "Un Ballo in Ma chera," "Dolcezza perduta." In short, every member of Mr. Gye's company did his and her best, and, as a matter of course, with the most satisfactory result.

An observant critic has discovered that Monday was one of the hottest days, and altogether the greatest concert-giving day, of the present year. From west London to what, in a concert-giving point of view, may be looked upon as mid-London, and from Mrs. Freake's, hard by the South Kensington Museum, to Messrs. Collard's, in Grosvenor-street, at the Hanover-square Rooms, at St. James's Hall, and at the house of Miss Burdett Coutts, operatic singers, concert-singers, and performers on all kinds of instruments were to be heard, and, if the promises of concert-givers, like those of lovers, were not made to be broken, ought to have been heard at several of the places above mentioned at the same time. South Kensington was the locality of Mlle. Anichini's matinée, always one of the best and most brilliantly attended of the season. The concert in Stratton-street took place under the leadership and auspices of Mr. Fowler; Mlle. Martin presided at the Hanover-square Rooms; M. Aguilas at Collard's Rooms; and Herr Kuhe was to have been the main support of the entertainment at St. James's Hall—from which, however, he was unhappily compelled to absent himself in consequence of severe domestic affliction. In the evening a concert of formidable dimensions and of unusual attractiveness for the suburbs, had been announced by Mrs. George Vining, who convened her friends, supporters, and the public in general of St. John's wood to the Assembly Rooms of the Eyre Arms; while, most important of all, a concert was given by the Philharmonic Society (at the Hanover-square Rooms), which enjoyed the special patronage of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

We have just received a copy of the new edition—the five hundred and twenty-eighth—of "Hamilton's Modern Instructions for the Pianoforte," published by Messrs. Cocks and Co. The fact that this work has run through so many editions, and still holds its own against all competitors, proves its title to be reckoned the best pianoforte instructor published. The exercises in the present edition have been revised and fingered throughout by Carl Czerny, and there have been added new and original preludes and arrangements by Vincent Wallace; so that, excellent as the work was before, it has been still further improved, and, it may almost be said, perfected.

RITUALISM ILLEGAL.—An opinion on the subject of ritualism, signed by Sir Roundell Palmer, Sir Hugh Cairns, Mr. Mellish, and Mr. Barrow, declares that the use of the vestments prescribed by King Edward VI.'s first Prayer-book is illegal, and might be punished under the Church Discipline Act of 1840; that lights on the communion-table, "not burnt for the sake of giving light, but as an ingredient in the service," are forbidden by Dr. Lushington's judgment; and that incense, wafers, hymns during the administration of the sacrament, and the ceremonial mixing of water with the wine, are also contrary to the law.

A NEW LIGHT.—Professor Carlevaris, of Genoa, has invented a new light, called the Carlevaris light, and the experiments made at the close of last month in the theatre of the Technical Institution were attended with great success and loudly applauded. This light is an oxy-hydro-magnesian flame, and is obtained by placing in the flame of a mixture of hydrogen, or coal gas, with air or oxygen, spongy magnesia, a substance of very small cost. The flame is white, rich in acetic force, fixed, and developing less heat than other lights. The expense is very trifling, a light equal to four wax candles only costing two tenths of a penny per hour. A new trial also took place in the lantern of the Genoa Lighthouse. It proved that this light was superior to that of the oil-lamps representing an illuminating power of twenty-three Carcel lamps, and yet the cost was only 3d. per hour.

"Jeanne la Folle" (88) is disappointing; that Lagye's "Minnesingers" (112) reminds us much of his master, Leyte, but is pleasanter in colour. Heilbuth does not this year answer the expectations raised by his "Meeting of the Cardinals" in the last exhibition. Thoms is as delightful as ever, and so is Plassan. The former's "Children Returning from Church" (191), and the "Mother and Child" (162) of the latter, should not be missed.

In marine views Niel and Poitevin take the foremost place. The former especially paints water in motion with great success. Landscapes by Chaigneau, Daubigny, Lambinet, and Lamoricière, will also be found on the walls, worthily exemplifying the peculiar merits of their respective styles.

Before closing our notice, we cannot omit to mention that there

seems to be a tendency on the part of the management of the gallery to admit into this exhibition, which professes to be for the exhibition of works by "French and Flemish" artists, works which cannot fairly claim a place. It would be invidious to draw attention to any instance, but we must state our opinion that they do not tend to raise the tone of the exhibition.

SINGULAR DISCOVERY.—On Wednesday some excavators engaged in tunnelling through Thurloch-hill, Norwood, for making a line of railway from New-cross to Sutton, dug out, at a depth of some 140 ft. from the surface, part of a leaden coffin, containing the remains of a human skull, some ancient coins, and a kind of small spear or dagger, all in a very decayed condition. The spot where they were found resembled a cave or depository, and has a species of subterranean passage leading from it. History records that an old feudal castle stood in this locality some centuries ago, and that this great hill was thrown up for military purposes.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF GAINSBOROUGH.—The death of the Earl of Gainsborough took place on Monday morning at an early hour. The late peer, owing to his advanced age, eighty-four, had for a considerable time past rarely interfered in politics, but was a Liberal of the old school, and had invariably supported the Whig Administrations from the accession of Earl Grey. The deceased Earl was eldest of the numerous family of Sir Gerard Noel-Noel, Bart., and Diana, Baroness Barham, who was the first of his three wives. He was born in 1811, and succeeded his mother in the barony of Barham in the spring of 1823. The deceased peer was created Earl of Gainsborough, Viscount Campden, &c., in 1831. The late Earl was married four times—first, in 1809, to Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr. Thomas Welman; she died in December, 1811, without issue. He married, secondly, in 1817, Elizabeth, second daughter of the Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., who died in September, 1818, leaving a son only a few days old; thirdly, in 1820, he married Arabella, second daughter of Sir James Hamlyn Williams; and, fourthly, in 1833, Lady Frances Jocelyn, second daughter of the present Earl of Roden. He leaves surviving issue also by the two last marriages. His eldest son, Charles George, was born on Sept. 5, 1818; and married, in November, 1841, Lady Adelaide, eldest daughter of William George, seventh Earl of Erroll. The present peer has a youthful family. Some few years back his Lordship embraced the faith of the Church of Rome.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—The Government bill upon this subject now before the House of Commons contains some clauses that should be generally known. Among nuisances to be abated by the authorities empowered to execute the Nuisances Removal Acts these are to be included:—A house or room so overcrowded as to be dangerous or prejudicial to health; a factory or workplace not already under the operation of the factories or bakehouse Acts not kept in a cleanly state, or not ventilated in such a manner as to render harmless, as far as practicable, any gases, dust, or other impurities generated in the course of the work that are injurious or dangerous to health; a fireplace or furnace for working engines by steam, or in any mill, factory, &c., which does not, so far as is practicable, consume its own smoke. But this last part of the clause is not to come into operation for a year in places where at present there is no law compelling such consumption of smoke. A penalty not exceeding £5 is imposed for exposure in any public place or public conveyance of any person suffering from a dangerous infectious disorder without proper precaution against spreading it; and there is a like penalty on the owner or driver of a public conveyance who does not immediately provide for its disinfection after it has with his knowledge conveyed any such sufferer. Carriages for the conveyance of such persons may be provided by the local authorities. The sewer authorities may compel the owner of any house in their district which is without effectual drainage to remedy that defect. Various other powers are given by the bill to the sanitary authorities for the sake of the public health.

WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES OF LONDON.—The Association for the Improvement of London Workhouse Infirmaries have forwarded, by the hand of the Earl of Carnarvon, the chairman of the committee, to the President of the Poor-Law Board, the statement of alleged neglect, cruelty, and inefficiency in the treatment of the sick in a West-End workhouse infirmary. The statement is made by a paid head nurse who was there but a short time, but who had considerable hospital experience, and whose testimonials are excellent. The house referred to is Paddington Workhouse. She describes instances of gross neglect and particular acts of great cruelty committed by pauper nurses. The nursing would seem to be most inefficient, and classification of patients to be ignored. The children are spoken of as being especially ill-treated, and the general picture drawn is, in its way, as discreditable as that which proved to be a true account of the Strand Infirmary by Miss Beeton. The committee ask for an immediate official inquiry, as the facts alleged are of quite recent date. Mr. Ernest Hart will attend the inquiry on behalf of the committee. It is one of the greater importance because the Paddington Union is one of the very wealthiest in London, and with a very small number of poor; and the guardians have always maintained a high reputation for humanity and good management; so much so that when the Archbishop of York, in warmly protesting, at the meeting at Willis's Rooms, against the general inefficiency of the arrangements made by the various boards of guardians for the sick poor of London, especially named, among those who were entitled to be excepted, the Paddington guardians, having heard a very good report of their house from a source which he considered authentic.

OYSTER FISHERIES BILL.—Mr. Milner Gibson's bill gives power to the Board of Trade to make orders for the establishment or improvement, and for the maintenance and regulation, of oyster fisheries on the shore or bed of the sea, or of an estuary or tidal river; and subject to the convention with France, the grantees may at any season take oysters or spawn from any natural public oyster-bed for the purpose of supplying an oyster-bed under such an order. Where the order confers a right of several oyster fisheries (which may be granted for any period not exceeding thirty years), all oysters and spawn of oysters being on an oyster-bed within the limits are to be the absolute property of the grantees; and, provided the limits of the fishery are marked out as prescribed by the order, no person may within those limits fish except with a line and hook, or a net adapted solely for catching floating fish, nor dredge for ballast, &c., except under a lawful authority for improving the navigation, nor deposit any ballast, &c., nor place anything likely to be prejudicial to the oyster fishery, except for a lawful purpose of navigation or anchorage, nor disturb or injure the oyster fishery in any manner except as last mentioned. But the Board of Trade are to have power to terminate a grant of several oyster fisheries if they are not satisfied that the grantees are properly cultivating the oyster-ground. There are provisions for an investigation and hearing of objections before these orders are made by the Board of Trade; and, as they are to have no operation until they have legislative sanction, they must come before Parliament, and if a petition be presented against any order the bill may be referred to a Select Committee, and opposed by a private bill.

IVORY.—The number of elephants that must be destroyed annually to meet the demand for ivory is absolutely enormous. It is stated on good authority that the cutlery establishments of Sheffield alone consume annually the ivory which is supplied by slaying more than 20,000 elephants, and every country must also have its supply. The other sources from which ivory is obtained—the walrus, the narwhal, &c.—afford but an insignificant item in the supply, and as no other substance has been discovered or invented which can take its place, and as the demand is constantly increasing from year to year, it would seem that the race of elephants may before long become extinct. The best ivory known is that which comes from Africa; for, though it is not so white as that furnished by the Asiatic elephants, it preserves its colour best, is most transparent, is freest from cracks, and receives the highest polish. This is owing to the fact that the African ivory contains about equal parts of animal and earthy matter, while in the Asiatic the proportion of earthy matter is greater. One great source of the supply of ivory in Russia and the northern countries of Europe is the tusks of extinct species of elephants and mammoths, which are found in the banks of the rivers of Northern Siberia in a remarkable state of preservation. In very cold countries the fossil remains occasionally dug up are dry and brittle, but boiling in a solution of gelatine will supply the want of the original albuminous matter. So, on the other hand, by dissolving a portion of the earthy matter, which is one of the principal ingredients, ivory retains its tenacity, but becomes exceedingly flexible. It is thus prepared for making surgical instruments. What will supply the place of ivory when the race of elephants is destroyed we cannot tell, but ingenuity is already at work to furnish a substitute, and is stimulated by the offer of large rewards. A short time since a reward of 5000 dols. was offered in America by parties interested in the manufacture of billiard-balls for a substance possessing the same qualities in about the same proportions. Its elasticity adapts it to this purpose; but, as ivory is affected by dampness and expands unequally according to the grain, it is found that the balls do not retain their perfect sphericity in all states of the atmosphere. For this reason, and on account of its increasing scarcity, some other substance is in demand. Vegetable ivory, so called, is used in making many articles, but it is of comparatively little value. There seems to be more hope that the requisite material will be obtained from some compound of indiarubber or gutta-percha than from any other source.

LAW AND CRIME.

The case of Mrs. Ryves (the petitioner claiming Royal descent) has increased in interest during its progress. The so-called certificate of the marriage of George III. (when Prince of Wales) with Hannah Lightfoot, which certificate was signed George Guelph, was proffered to the Court, but rejected as a forgery. One of the most remarkable portions of the trial was the examination of the claimant herself. Incidentally, the question of the authorship of "Junius" was imported into the case. Mrs. Ryves declares upon oath that she has no doubt that Dr. Wilmot was the author of these well-known letters. Her reasons for such belief are, however, by no means convincing. The documents on which her opinion is based are not forthcoming. One of them is said to be a letter of Dr. Wilmot, in which he stated that, "as the author of 'Junius,' he laid aside his pen, George III., having promised to act conscientiously." Now, a little comparison of dates, and a review of Junius's letters, may here be useful. The letters of Junius date from the year 1768, George III. having ascended the throne in 1760, and married his Queen in 1761. Supposing this marriage to be bigamous, Dr. Wilmot could not have been wronged by it. In fact, he preached the first Court sermon after the marriage. But supposing him to be, as pretended, the father of the first and only true wife of the Duke of Cumberland, he might have felt deeply wronged by that Prince's supposed bigamous marriage in November, 1771. The list of the political letters of Junius appeared in January, 1772; so that one is to imagine that, after having written for two years, without a strong personal wrong to avenge, Junius discontinues his letters in two months after receiving a domestic injury! Moreover, within these two months, he never writes a single letter upon any but legal and constitutional subjects. That one letter of another kind, under another signature, is attributed to him, we must admit. This is signed "Cumbriensis," is addressed to the Duke of Cumberland on his marriage, and is dated November, 1771. The only ground for the attribution appears to be that Junius, in a private letter, once wrote "Cumbriensis has taken greatly"—evidence no stronger than that on which any successful book might be attributed to one half of its readers writing of it to their acquaintances. We quote from this letter the following, because really the Ryves case and what follows seem to illustrate each other. (Perhaps the reader may choose to refer to it in *extenso*—"Junius," Bohn's edition, vol. ii, pp. 387, 388.)

What you have done will, I am sure, be no disgrace to yourself or to any of your relations. Yet I must confess, partial as I am to you, for the sake of that good Prince of whose resemblance you carry some cutting traces about you, I could wish you did not stand quite so near as you do to the Regency and Crown of England. God forbid I should ever hear your Royal nephews say, as Edward the Fifth does in the play, "*But why to the Tower, uncle?—or why should you lock us up, aunt?*"—I mean their uncle Luttrell and aunt Horton. But, my good youth, let no considerations of this sort interrupt your pleasures. Your amiable spouse is as much Duchess of Cumberland as our gracious Queen is Queen of Great Britain; and of course she is the second woman in the kingdom.

Yet, in this same letter "Cumbriensis" supposes that the King may possibly not recognise the new Duchess, and adds, "What matter? Your marriage will still be good in law, and your children legitimate." The style of this letter is scarcely that of "Junius," for the writer afterwards talks of "letting the cat out of the bag;" and yet this is the only letter in all the collection which can be supposed to have been prompted by the vindictiveness of Dr. Wilmot. It must be remembered, too, that this doctor could scarcely spell (if Mrs. Ryves's documents are trustworthy, and if not, her whole case is at an end), and that his syntax appears to have been of the loosest. This might, as it does even now, occasionally, happen in some cases to a University man educated rather in the classics than in English; but even such a one would scarcely mis-spell words of Latin derivation, and write "Desposer of Events." To imagine such a man (consistently with the petitioner's case) the writer of the polished sentences of "Junius" appears equally absurd as to attribute the "New Timon" to the Poet Close. But it seems that the petitioner's mother, when a child, found a manuscript book, and, having scribbled in it, hid it for fear, and always afterwards maintained that it was the manuscript of "Junius," by Dr. Wilmot, which, by-the-way, of course, had been from time to time sent to Mr. Woodfall. Here is evidence, indeed! Mrs. Ryves's own counsel, Dr. Smith, spoke of the "rough hand of Dr. Wilmot," contrasting it with the "fine Italian hand of Lord Warwick." With facsimiles of the handwriting of Junius before us, and with no small experience of the caligraphy of the last century, we unhesitatingly say that that of the real Junius is as elegant as any we have seen of a period when elegance of writing and not the slovenly scrawl now in use among the classes who ought to know better, was one of the graceful accomplishments of a gentleman. However, the case of Mrs. Ryves received its death-blow on Wednesday, when the jury interrupted the Attorney-General by declaring their unanimous conviction that all the documents produced by the petitioner were spurious. To one point of great moment in the case we adverted last week, simply as an hypothesis. The so-called "certificates" were written upon slips and scraps of paper, which might have been really signed, in the form of other and larger documents, by those whose names they bore, and this fact carried its own significance. The Lord Chief Justice, the Lord Chief Baron, and the Judge of the Probate Court, all concurred in the opinion of the jury, and the documents of the petitioner were ordered to be impounded.

A difference has arisen between the Judge of certain western County Courts and the solicitors practising therein. The details will be found in another place. The Judge requires that defending solicitors should at once, after the statement of the plaintiff's case, declare the grounds of defence. Our own impression is that the Judge is in the right in principle, if not in strict construction of the statute. In the superior courts a defence, if there be one, must appear on the pleadings, so that not only the Judge but the plaintiff must have fair notice of it. In the County Courts the defendant puts forth no written pleading, therefore it is scarcely fair that he should be allowed to snap an advantage from any unforeseen or accidental weak point of the plaintiff's case.

The Cannon-street murder of the housekeeper, for which William Smith, alias William Denton, was committed for trial, occupied the attention of a jury at the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday and Thursday. The defence was founded upon an alibi. The jury, without hesitation, returned a verdict of "Not Guilty."

POLICE.

THE UNIONISTS.—George Balfour, a packing-case maker, late in the employ of Messrs. Terry and Son, packing-case makers and timber merchants, Collingwood-street, Blackfriars-road, was summoned by Thomas Spanswick, a journeyman in their service, for using threatening language to him, and endeavouring to force him from his employment.

The proceedings were taken under the 3rd sec. of 6 George IV.

Thomas Spanswick said—On Tuesday evening last, when witness went out to his tea, he saw the defendant and several others who had recently turned out on strike from the same shop. He came up to witness and commenced bullying him, seized him by the collar of the coat, and shook him very roughly, at the same time calling him a sneak. He also shook his fist at him, and threatened to smash his head.

Mr. Burcham asked if anything was said about working for Messrs. Terry.

Witness replied in the affirmative. They called me a rogue for working for them, and the defendant said he would knock my teeth down my throat. When the defendant stopped him and complained of his working for Messrs. Terry and Son he told him he was perfectly satisfied with his situation, as he was earning 25s. a week. Witness never called the defendant any bad names nor aggravated him in the least. He did not know the reason exactly why defendant and all the others left Messrs. Terry, but he understood it was about the number of apprentices taken.

Edward Stanley, another journeyman in the same employ, corroborated the testimony of the prosecutor.

After further corroborative evidence, two of the men on strike were then called, and denied any violence being used. They heard an altercation between Spanswick and the defendant, but did not hear the latter intimidate the former or make use of any threat to him.

Mr. Burcham said he had no doubt the defendant's witnesses spoke the truth as far as they knew and heard, but he could not brand the prosecutor and his witness with perjury, when not a particle of the testimony had been disproved. At the present time the law stood equal between master and men; both had the right to combine in a peaceable manner for their own protection, therefore the workmen had no reason to complain. The law, however, forbade either to use forcible means to carry their objects; and when such was proved before him he should always inflict a severe punishment, with the view of putting a stop to such a pernicious system. He therefore sentenced the defendant to six weeks' imprisonment in the House of Correction at Wandsworth.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

A RAILWAY accident of a most singular nature, attended, unhappily, with loss of life, occurred on Saturday night last, on the Great Northern Railway. The supply-pipe of the engine of a down empty coal-train burst while passing through the Welwyn tunnel, some twenty miles from King's-cross. This brought the train to a standstill midway. A down goods train, freighted with oil, tallow, &c., following, entered the tunnel, and a collision was the result. A third train, on the up line, also went into the tunnel, and came into contact with the engine of the coal-train, which had been thrown across the up line, and, like the two previous trains, was scattered. The fire from the furnaces then ignited the inflammable portion of the débris, and the tunnel in a short time presented the appearance of an active volcano. It having been found impracticable to extinguish the flames, the fire was allowed to burn itself out. This had taken place by Monday evening, when operations were commenced for clearing the tunnel and ascertaining the extent of the damage done. It was then found that Wray, the guard of the empty-trucks train, had been killed, and that another man, to whom he had been giving a ride home in his break, was so much injured that, although alive when extricated, he died on Tuesday morning. The tunnel was finally cleared, the rails were repaired, and the traffic had resumed its ordinary course on Wednesday. The nature and causes of the accident will best be understood by the following extracts from the evidence given before the Coroner's inquest on the bodies of the victims:—

John Sizer I reside at New England, near Peterborough, and am an engine-driver on the Great Northern Railway. I was the driver of the train of empties to which the deceased Wray was guard. I believe he was about twenty-eight years of age. I did not know the other deceased, John Rawlins, nor did I know that he was on my train. I left London at 9.45 on Saturday night, and had about thirty-eight carriages on. Frederick Kemp was my fireman. We reached Welwyn station in safety, but did not stop there. My signal here was "All right." It was about 11.20 when the accident happened. When I got about half way, as near as I can tell, through the second tunnel from here, a tube of my engine burst. That tube being connected with the boiler, I could not get the train any further. I sent my fireman back to the guard to tell him what had happened. He came back and told me Wray said the best thing I could do was to set the train back to Welwyn. I refused, because I thought it highly improper to set it back on the wrong road. I unhooked my engine from the train, and, finding I could get along with the engine alone, I was going on to Knebworth (the next station) when I heard the Midland train run into us behind. I expect Wray was in his break at that time, as my fireman left him there. There would be about thirty-eight empties between the engine and the break. I cannot describe the effect of the Midland running into my train, from which I was at the time disengaged. The trucks only came forward and gave me a bit of a bump, and pushed my engine a little more forward.

By the Coroner—I was moving away when I heard the up train coming into the tunnel, and I then stopped still and heard the other collision. I could not see anything; I could only hear it. I then took my engine on to Knebworth and gave the alarm. Knebworth station is about two miles beyond the tunnel. This is all I know of the accident. I had been in the tunnel about fifteen or sixteen minutes when the Midland pitched into me.

Joseph Kemp deposed—I was fireman to last witness on Saturday night. The signals were "All right" as we entered the Welwyn tunnel. When I went back to the guard and told him the situation we were in, Wray replied—"There will be nothing come into the tunnel; so that if you cannot go up the incline you had better go down to Welwyn again." Wray added—"There would nothing come in, as they would not let anything in till we were at Knebworth." When I went back and told Sizer what the guard said he hesitated a moment, and then said "He dared not go back on the wrong line." I had just got on the engine, and we felt something bump, and immediately after heard an up train approaching. It passed us, and we then heard a loud crash; but we could not see anything, as the place was full of steam and smoke. We immediately went forward with the engine to Knebworth. I came back with assistance from Hitchin.

By the Coroner—I know Rawlins, but was not aware he was in the train. Wray put his head out of the break window when I spoke to him. I believe the guard ought

to have gone back. I did not see him do so. Our duty was to take the directions of the guard; that was why I went back to consult him. (The rules for guards were here read, directing that in all cases of accident the guard should proceed backward on the route to stop all other trains.) The Midland train ran into us about five minutes after I spoke to the guard.

Sizer, recalled, declared that the engine was fit for travelling on Saturday night.

Charles Williams, of London—I am engine-driver on the Midland Railway. I drove a train into the Welwyn station on Saturday night, about 11.30 or 11.40. It was a goods-train—twenty-six carriages and a guard's break. I did not stop at the Welwyn station. There was a danger signal, or rather two danger signals, as I was leaving Welwyn junction. I mean I could see danger signals at this station, as I left Welwyn junction. We slackened speed. When I got within 200 or 300 yards of the danger signal it was turned off "All right" for me. The red light was lowered, and a white one shown. Both the signals were lowered, and the white light substituted. That authorised me to proceed, and accordingly I proceeded through the station without stopping. I saw the signalman at his post. I held up my arm to him. I believe he saw me, but I do not know. I entered the tunnel at the rate of from twenty to twenty-five miles an hour. I could not see anything before me, except just as I ran into the train I saw a red light in the guard's break. I was jammed against the fire-box. My fireman was Walter Sowden. Nobody else was on the engine. After the collision my mate got down on to the ground to try and find a light, but could not. We heard another train enter the tunnel from the Hinchin end and run into the first train. That was only about two or three minutes after I had run into the train. I came back to the signalman and told him. He was at his post. My mate was very much hurt. Some time afterwards I went back to the tunnel. We found Rawlins just at the back of my tender by the wall. Some of my train and the preceding train had got on to the up line.

Coroner—I think we have gone far enough to see to what we have to direct our attention. First, with regard to the soundness of the engine which broke down; and, secondly, as to the signals, and how it was that they showed "All right."

James Radford—I am a signalman on the Great Northern Railway at the Welwyn station. I was there on Saturday last. I had three distant signals and two semaphore signals under my charge. I shall have been a signalman seven years in August next. I have been at this station three years. Went on duty at six o'clock that night. The coal empties were telegraphed to me as being at the nineteenth mile at eleven o'clock. It left Welwyn junction at 11.13, and passed here at 11.20. This train shunted at the junction to allow another to pass. I heard of another train at 11.3. It left the junction at 11.9, passed here (Welwyn station) at 11.13, clear at Knebworth at 11.20. Heard of another one at 11.30, left the junction at 11.35, passed here 11.38. This is the one that ran into the "empties." I telephoned to Knebworth to say the coal empties had passed. I did not receive a direct reply that it had cleared. I heard of a Midland train coming at 11.36, and telephoned to him asking if the line was clear—if the "empties" were out of the tunnel. He answered "Yes." I did not record that, because it was not in the direct way. I telephoned to Knebworth at 11.36 to say that the Midland had passed in. I am sure I received a telegram at 11.36 to say that the "empties" had passed out. He would not receive the telegram at 11.38 because he knew the coal "empties" were not out. It was the minute after I received the answer "Yes" that I allowed the Midland to go on.

Joseph Harding, of Knebworth—I am a signalman on the Great Northern Railway at Knebworth. I was on duty on Saturday evening. I went on duty at six o'clock. At 11.20 I had a telegram to say the coal empties were "in." I acknowledged the receipt of that. The next telegram was at 11.35, "Be ready for one past the junction." I answered that by accepting it. The next telegram he gave me was about 11.35, "Did you out?" That was directly after he had given me "Be ready." My answer was, "No." At about 11.40 I received another telegram, "Train in." I would not acknowledge that because I knew there was a train in, and that there ought not to be two in at once. I am sure that I did not give "Line clear" after 11.20.

Examination continued—I telephoned a Midland up train at 11.22, and received "out" from Welwyn at 11.30. When I received the telegram at 11.38 to say that the Midland was in, I would not receive it, but replied, "You gave one in." He said, "I asked if you gave that out, and you said yes." I answered that I said "No."

James Radford (the other signalman) recalled—I have heard what the last witness said. He is wrong about the "No." I am sure he answered "Yes."

Mr. Wontner, solicitor, who appeared for the company, pointed out that it was the duty of the deceased guard to go back and give warning of the accident, which, as there was sixteen minutes between the first and second trains, he had sufficient time to do.

The Coroner having briefly addressed the jury, a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned; the jury adding that they were not prepared to express an opinion as to the discrepancy in the statements of the two signalmen.

A COUNTY COURT JUDGE AND THE SOLICITORS.—A curious and important point of difference has arisen between Mr. Josiah W. Smith, Q.C., Judge of the county courts of Shropshire, Herefordshire, and Montgomeryshire, and the solicitors who practise in his extensive circuit. Mr. Smith lately succeeded to his office, on the resignation of Vincent Corbett, Esq., and at the first court held after his appointment he addressed the solicitors present, and informed them that he should make a rule requiring all legal gentlemen who practise in his courts, and appeared on behalf of defendants, to state the nature of their proposed defence as soon as the case was opened by the other side. Much dissatisfaction was expressed by the solicitors at the enactment of such an unusual rule; and at a subsequent court, held in Shrewsbury, Mr. Craig, a solicitor having charge of a defence, asked the Judge, when he requested him to state the grounds on which he relied for a non-suit, on what authority he sought to enforce the rule. His Honour quoted sec. 10 Vict. 15 and 26, c. 54, which, after stating who may appear as a matter of right to conduct cases in court, adds, "or, by leave of the Judge for any other person allowed by the Judge to appear instead of the party to address the Court, but subject to such regulations as the Judge may from time to time prescribe for the orderly transaction of the business of the court." This, Mr. Craig contended, gave the Judge power to make rules for the guidance of unqualified practitioners only; and, in the altercation which ensued, his Honour made use of the terms "dodging" and "contumacious" with reference to Mr. Craig's conduct; whereupon that gentleman indignantly threw up his case and left the court. On the publication in the local newspapers of the details of the "scene" his Honour wrote to Mr. Craig, expressing the surprise and extreme pain with which he had read the report, and stating that, to the best of his recollection, he had not, and certainly had not intended to have, made use of such epithets. This letter was published, and the matter was supposed to have ended; but, on the next holding of the court in Shrewsbury his Honour delivered a lengthy address on the point at issue, in which, after reading the section already quoted and combating the theory that it referred only to unqualified practitioners, he expressed his determination to adhere to the regulation he had made, and stated that he could enforce it either by withholding his fee from the non-compliant attorney or by requiring the defendant to conduct his own case. "But," he added, "to prevent any altercation, which would be quite derogatory to my position, and to avoid inflicting any pecuniary loss on a professional man, which would be most repugnant to my disposition, I shall not enforce this regulation in either of these ways without an actual necessity. I shall leave it to the attorney's good taste and right feeling and prudence, if he have any." Here for the present the matter rests, no case of dispute having arisen in the court just held.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

ALTHOUGH the imports of the precious metals have been on an extensive scale, and although large additions have been made to the stock of gold in the Bank of England, the transactions in National Stocks have been on a moderate scale. Prices, however, have been fairly supported. Consols for Money, have realised 86s. 8d.; Ditto for Account, 86s. 8d.; Reduced and New Three per Cent., 90s.; Eggplant Seven per Cent., 1864, 75s.; Chilean Six per Cent., 90s.; Egyptian Seven per Cent., 1864, 75s.; Brazil, 78s.; Peru, 1864, 75s.; Spanish Three per Cent., 1864, 75s.; Ditto Five per Cent., 1864, 75s.; Turkish Six per Cent., 1864, 50s.; and Italian Five per Cent., 1864, 50s.

Indian Stocks, &c., have moved off slowly. India Stock, 269 to 212; Ditto Five per Cent., 104 to 104; Euper Paper, 100 to 101, and 101 to 107; and India Bonds, 50 to 50 pence.

In the market for Foreign Securities only a moderate business has been done. Mexican Stock is 100; but in most other instances the quotations have been firm. British Five per Cent., 1863, have been done at 98s.; Chilean Six per Cent., 90s.; Eggplant Seven per Cent., 1864, 75s.; Brazil, 78s.; Peru, 1864, 75s.; Spanish Three per Cent., 1864, 75s.; Ditto, Reduced, 31; Ditto Passive, 18s.; Ditto Certificates, 12s.; Turkish Six per Cent., 1864, 50s.; and Italian Five per Cent., 1864, 50s.

Bank shares have been firmer, and in some instances an important rise has taken place in prices. In the share of the London and County Bank there has been a considerable advance:—Agra and Madras have advanced to 2; Alliance, 19; Australasia, 64s.; Bank of British America, 16; Bank of Egypt, 26s.; British North America, 4s.; Chilian, 10; Egyptian, 10; Bank of India, London, 3s.; City, 16; Colonial, 12; Consolidated, 3; Imperial, 24; International, 18; Japan, 6s.; London Financial, 6s.; London and River Plate, 47; London and County, 7s.; London and South-Western, 16; National Provincial of England, 15d.; Oriental, 27; Union of Australia, 45s.; and Union of London, 47s.

The Miscellaneous Market has been very quiet. Anglo-Mexican Mint Shares have been done at 15s. ex div.; Atlantic Telegraph, 3s.; Credit Foncier and Mobiliar of England, 7s.; Crystal Palace, 36s.; East Indian Irrigation and Canal, 8s.; Ebow Vale, 12s.; Electric Telegraph, 12s.; Fore-street Warehouse, 16s.; General Credit, 3s.; Great Western, 18s.; International Financial, 3s.; International Land Credit, 28s.; Liverpool, 10s.; London Financial, 6s.; London General Insurance, 65s.; Rio de Janeiro City Improvements, 10s.; Telegraph Construction and Maintenance, 9s.; Great Central Gas, 12s.; Imperial, 75s. ex div.; Surrey Coal and Iron, 13s.; Westminster Chartered, 6s.; Grand Junction Waterworks, 7s.; Eagle Insurance, 6s.; London, 46s.; and Indemnity Marine, 12s.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The arrivals of English wheat fresh up to our market this week have been limited, but in good condition. For both red and white quality the demand has been fair from speculative; nevertheless, the quotations have advanced a per quarter. The transactions in foreign wheat have been on a moderate scale, at per quarter per quarter more money. English barley has moved off freely, foreign parcels slowly, as full currencies. The transactions in malt have not increased, yet prices have been fairly supported. Oats, owing to the heavy arrivals from abroad, have declined 6s. per quarter. The flour trade has been tolerably firm.

ENGLISH MINT SHARES.—Credit Foncier and Mobiliar of England, 15s.; Crystal Palace, 36s.; East Indian Irrigation and Canal, 8s.; Ebow Vale, 12s.; Electric Telegraph, 12s.; Fore-street Warehouse, 16s.; General Credit, 3s.; Great Western, 18s.; International Financial, 3s.; International Land Credit, 28s.; Liverpool, 10s.; London Financial, 6s.; London General Insurance, 65s.; Rio de Janeiro City Improvements, 10s.; Telegraph Construction and Maintenance, 9s.; Great Central Gas, 12s.; Imperial, 75s. ex div.; Surrey Coal and Iron, 13s.; Westminster Chartered, 6s.; Grand Junction Waterworks, 7s.; Eagle Insurance, 6s.; London, 46s.; and Indemnity Marine, 12s.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.—The demand for all kinds of grain is in a sluggish state, and prices are moderately supported.

SUGAR.—Full quotations have been realised for raw and refined sugars, on former terms. The stock consists of 93,434 tons, against 93,300 tons last year.

COFFEE.—We have no change to no rice in prices. The demand, however, is chiefly retail.

PROVISIONS.—Higher quotations have been realised for Irish and foreign butter, with a steady demand. There is a fair sale for bacon, at 7s. per cwt. for Waterford on board. Ham, lard, and cheese command extreme rates.

TALLOW.—P.Y.C., on the spot, is in request, at 42s. 6d. per cwt. The stock amounts to 29,292 casks, against 31,330 casks last year.

OILS.—Linseed oil has changed hands at 26s. per cwt. on the spot. Rape oil, 26s.; palm, 24s. On the spot, French turpentine is selling at 40s. 6d. per cwt. and arrives at 42s. 6d. per cwt.

SALT.—Prime stock has moved off steadily, at full quotations. Otherwise, the trade has been very inactive.

SPRINKLES.—There is a fair sale in spirituous liquors, at full quotations. Brandy and wine spirits sell slowly, at fair rates.

HAY AND STRAW.—Meadow hay, 8s. 6d. to 9s. 6d.; straw, 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.

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